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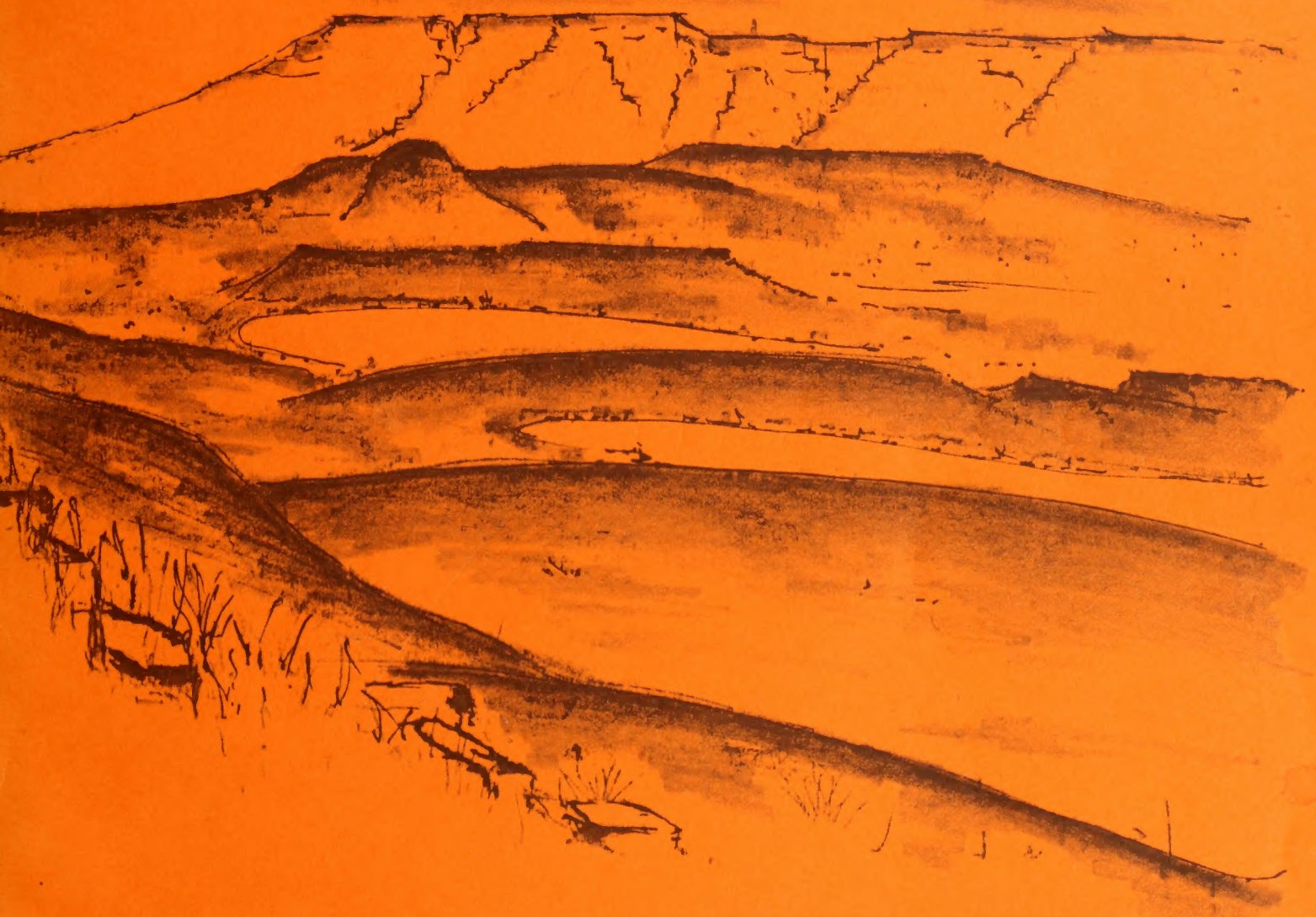
WILDERNESS REVIEW

INTENSIVE INVENTORY



FINAL DECISIONS ON 30 SELECTED UNITS IN SOUTHEAST OREGON

AND

PROPOSED DECISIONS ON OTHER INTENSIVELY INVENTORIED UNITS

IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

MARCH 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON STATE OFFICE
P.O. Box 2965 (729 N.E. Oregon Street)
Portland, Oregon 97208

ERRATA SHEET

WILDERNESS REVIEW - INTENSIVE INVENTORY

Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed

Decisions on Other Intensively Inventoried Units in Oregon and Washington

MARCH 1980

In the report published on March 27, 1980, portions of the descriptions of Units 3-162A and 3-163 were missing. The following material should be inserted between pages 318 and 319 of the report.

Subunit Number: 3-162A (Continued from page 318)

Wilderness Criteria

Solitude: The terrain is diverse and offers excellent opportunities for solitude. Opportunities in the canyon bottoms and some of the higher areas are further enhanced by patches of mountain mahogany. Although the trees are short and moderately dense, they provide many shaded, isolated campsites. The size and shape of the unit also serve to isolate the central core area.

Recreation: The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for hiking, camping, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, photography, sightseeing, climbing, and horseback riding. There are many ravines and drainages to explore and rimrock to scramble. The area has a large population of game animals.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers opportunities for scientific and educational studies of the riparian habitats and geology. Scenic views include the Trout Creeks, Steens Mountain, Whitehorse and Willow Buttes, Blue Mountain, and the interior canyons.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 27,160-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 8,840 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include the 760-acre brush control project, the 1,200-acre seeding, and the north portion of the unit cut off by the bladed fenceline (which incorporates another seeding of 6,880 acres). These areas total to 8,840 acres.

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Unit Number: 3-163

Unit Name: Blue Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 61,980 acres of public land, including 4,180 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Two miles west of Blue Mountain Pass, U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north and south by county roads, to the west by BLM roads, and to the east by BLM roads and U.S. Highway 95. Approximately 21 miles of roads extend into the unit and deadend on Blue Mountain.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes Blue Mountain, a 6,000-foot peak, and rolling hills. The mountains and hills form a north-south ridgeline. Most of the unit to the west of Blue Mountain is extremely flat. The vegetation is sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. There are 32 miles of ways. They extend into the unit from all sides and generally work up the hillsides to Blue Mountain. Some are over pipelines, which total six and one-half miles. The pipelines are substantially noticeable because of the gentle slopes and lack of vegetative cover. Scattered throughout the unit are 14 reservoirs, two guzzlers, and one developed spring. Along the pipelines are water troughs. These developments are substantially unnoticeable because of their small size.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Report

This report and the accompanying maps describe the most recent decisions in the Bureau of Land Management's intensive wilderness inventory in Oregon and Washington. The report is divided into two parts.

Part I describes the BLM State Director's final decisions on the intensive inventory of 30 inventory units in southeast Oregon. Portions of some units are identified as wilderness study areas and others are eliminated from further wilderness review.

Part II describes the State Director's proposed decisions on all of the other public lands included in the intensive wilderness inventory in Oregon and Washington. Additional areas are proposed as wilderness study areas and other lands are proposed to be eliminated from further consideration in the wilderness review.

Public Comment Period: March 27 - June 25, 1980

A 90-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON THE PROPOSED DECISIONS DESCRIBED IN PART II WILL RUN FROM MARCH 27 TO JUNE 25, 1980.

See Part II for information on how and where to submit written comments. Comments also may be presented orally at public meetings. A series of informal meetings will be held in April to present the proposed decisions and to receive comments.

Oregon

April 10 - Eugene, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Street.

April 15 - Baker, 7:30 PM. Baker Community Center, 2610 Grove Street.

April 15 - Coos Bay, 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Southwestern Oregon Community College, Tioga Hall.

April 16 - Enterprise, 7:30 PM. Cloverleaf Hall.

April 16 - Brookings, 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Brookings City Hall.

April 16 - Lakeview, 7:30 PM. BLM District Office, 1000 South 9th.

April 16 - Ontario, 7:30 PM, MST. Treasure Valley Community College, Weese Building, Room 10.

April 17 - Jordan Valley, 7:30 PM, MST. Lion's Den.

April 17 - Burns, 7:00 PM. BLM District Office, 74 South Alvord.

April 17 - Medford, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. BLM District Office, 3040 Biddle Road.

April 19 - Prineville, 2:00 PM. Crook County Courthouse, County Circuit Court Room.

April 22 - Grants Pass, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Josephine County Courthouse.

April 23 - Klamath Falls, 7:30 PM. Klamath County Library, 126 South 3rd Street.

April 24 - McDermitt, NV, 7:30 PM, PST. Community Hall.

April 26 - Grass Valley, 2:00 PM. South Sherman Elementary School

April 30 - Portland, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus, College Center (CC) Building, Cedar Room.

Washington

April 15 - Pasco, 7:00 PM. Franklin County PUD Auditorium, 1411 West Clark.

April 17 - Everett, 7:00 PM. Snohomish County Administration Building, County Hearing Room, 3000 Rockefeller.

April 21 - Okanogan, 7:00 PM. Okanogan PUD, 1331 2nd Street North.

After public comments are considered, the State Director will make his final decisions on which of the lands described in Part II will be identified as wilderness study areas. Those decisions will be announced in September 1980.

The September decisions will conclude the inventory phase of the wilderness review and signal the start of the study phase. The three phases of the wilderness review are described in Appendix A.

Background

The Wilderness Review in Oregon and Washington

The purpose of the intensive inventory is to identify BLM lands with wilderness characteristics. Such lands become wilderness study areas. They will be studied through the Bureau's land use planning process to determine which ones should be recommended to Congress for designation as wilderness areas. Lands identified in the intensive inventory as lacking wilderness characteristics are eliminated from further wilderness review.

The intensive inventory was preceded by a preliminary step called the initial inventory. Its purpose was to eliminate from further review those lands which, based on information readily available from records in BLM district offices, clearly do not have wilderness characteristics. The State Director announced his proposed decisions on the initial inventory of BLM lands in Oregon and Washington in April 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed. After comments on the proposed decisions were considered, the State Director issued his final decisions in August 1979. Approximately 5.7 million acres in Oregon and over 296,000 acres in Washington were determined to lack wilderness charactristics and were eliminated from further review. Another seven million acres in Oregon and 14,000 acres in Washington were identified as requiring an intensive inventory to determine whether they should be identified as wilderness study areas.

The on-the-ground field evaluations of the intensive inventory were carried out during the summer and fall of 1979.

Proposed decisions on the intensive inventory of approximately 1.2 million acres in southeast Oregon were announced on October 4, 1979. A 90-day public comment period ran from that date to January 4, 1980. These are the areas that are the subject of the final decisions described in Part I of this report.

The proposed decisions described in Part II are for the 5.9 million acres in Oregon and 14,000 acres in Washington that were included in the intensive inventory but not in the proposed decisions announced in October 1979.

As we move through the last part of the inventory and into the study phase later this year, it will be helpful to remember a few key points about how the wilderness review is being conducted.

1. In deciding whether an area should become a wilderness study area, the only issue to be considered is whether it has wilderness characteristics as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act. On the basis of that definition, a study area must (a) be a roadless area containing at least 5,000 acres of contiguous public land or be large enough to be effectively preserved as wilderness, or be a public land island of any size; (b) be generally free of the imprints of man; and (c) offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

2. The question of whether an area's most valuable resource or most appropriate use is wilderness cannot be addressed until the study phase; that is, until it has been determined that the area has wilderness characteristics. During the inventory, comments that an area's wilderness values are more important than its mineral values, or that it would be better to cut its timber than preserve it as wilderness, cannot be used as reasons for or against identifying it as a study area. Issues such as these will be addressed during the wilderness studies.

3. ONLY CONGRESS CAN ESTABLISH A WILDERNESS AREA. BLM's responsibility--with public participation--is to identify study areas and to develop recommendations on which study areas Congress should designate as wilderness.

The wilderness review process is described in more detail in Appendix A of this report and in a Wilderness Inventory Handbook which you may obtain by writing or calling any BLM office. Addresses and telephone numbers of offices in Oregon and Washington are listed in Appendix C.

You may also obtain copies of the August 1979 report on the initial inventory and the October 1979 report on the proposed decisions on the intensive inventory of 30 units in southeast Oregon from the Public Affairs Room in the BLM State Office in Portland. The address is listed in Appendix C.

Project Inventories

In addition to the inventories described above, two special inventories have been conducted in Oregon to determine whether two energy projects would conflict with wilderness values.

An inventory of BLM lands along the route of a proposed Pacific Power and Light Company powerline from the Idaho State Line to Malin, Oregon, was conducted in 1977-78. As a result of that inventory, the State Director determined that approximately 1.2 million acres lack wilderness characteristics. The location of these lands was shown on maps distributed during the inventory and on the April 1979 and August 1979 initial inventory maps. The State Director also concluded that other lands included in the special inventory should be further reviewed to determine whether they have wilderness characteristics. These lands were included in the initial inventory conducted in 1978-79.

A wilderness inventory of public lands along the proposed route of the western leg of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System pipeline also was conducted in 1978-79. Proposed decisions were issued in November 1978, and final decisions were issued in February 1980. A 7,560-acre portion of Inventory Unit 5-1 in the Prineville District was identified as the Thirtymile Wilderness Study Area. The other 54,990 acres evaluated in the inventory were eliminated from further wilderness review. The Thirtymile Wilderness Study Area is shown on the accompanying map of northeast Oregon.

Instant Study Areas

Congress required in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that the wilderness review of certain primitive and research natural areas be carried out on an accelerated basis. These areas are called instant study areas. Five instant study areas are located in Oregon.

In April 1979, the State Director announced preliminary findings that none of the instant study areas in Oregon, by themselves, have wilderness characteristics. He also stated that portions of the Lost Forest Instant Study Area in the Lakeview District and the Western Juniper Instant Study Area in the Prineville District should be re-evaluated during the intensive inventory of the larger inventory units within which they are located. After comments received during a 60-day comment period were considered, the State Director adopted the preliminary findings as final and announced them in August 1979.

Portions of the Lost Forest Instant Study Area are contained in Inventory Units 1-9, 1-12, and 1-24. Explanations of the proposed decisions on the intensive inventory of those units can be found in the Lakeview section of Part II of this report. The Western Juniper Instant Study Area is part of Inventory Unit 5-5. An explanation of the proposed decision on that unit can be found in the Prineville section of Part II.

Interim Management Policy

In Section 603c of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress required BLM to manage public lands in a manner which does not impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness. Lands are released from this interim management requirement when it is determined through the initial or intensive inventories that they do not meet the wilderness criteria. Areas with wilderness characteristics remain under the interim management policy until Congress either makes the areas part of the National Wilderness Preservation System or decides against wilderness designation. BLM issued a brochure in December 1979 which explains how the interim management policy will be carried out. You may obtain a copy by calling or writing any of the BLM offices listed in Appendix C.

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PART I

FINAL DECISIONS ON 30 SELECTED UNITS IN SOUTHEAST OREGON

PART I

FINAL DECISIONS ON 30 SELECTED UNITS IN SOUTHEAST OREGON

Overview

The final decisions described in this part refer to 30 selected inventory units in southeast Oregon. Proposed decisions were announced on October 4, 1979, and a public comment period ran to January 4, 1980. Six public meetings were held in southeast Oregon and the Willamette Valley. The final decisions were reached after the proposed decisions were reconsidered in light of comments received during the public comment period.

This part of the report includes a general summary of public comments, a list of the acreages involved in the final decisions for each of the 30 units, and individual descriptions of the units and explanations of the final decisions.

The final decisions are that eight areas containing approximately 431,700 acres have wilderness characteristics and are identified as wilderness study areas. Approximately 776,500 acres do not have wilderness characteristics and are eliminated from further wilderness review. The wilderness study areas and the lands eliminated from further wilderness review are shown on the accompanying maps.

At the beginning of the public comment period, 11 areas containing approximately 347,000 acres were proposed as wilderness study areas, and approximately 864,000 acres were proposed to be eliminated from further wilderness review.

In addition to the maps accompanying this report, the final decisions are shown on larger scale maps of the inventory units. You may obtain such maps from the Oregon State Office in Portland or from the district office which administers the unit in which you are interested. Specify the unit number so we can send you the correct map.

These decisions are scheduled to be announced in the Federal Register on March 27, 1980, but publication may be a day or two before or after that date. The decisions will become final 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register, unless amended on the basis of new information received as a result of this report, or unless a protest is filed. Any person wishing to protest any of the decisions reported here must file a protest with the Oregon State Office within 30 days of publication of the announcement in the Federal Register. The protest must specify the area or areas to which it is directed, it must include a clear and concise statement of the reasons for the protest, and it must include data to support the reasons.

Public lands eliminated from further wilderness review will be released from the interim management requirements imposed by Section 603c of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The interim management policy guidelines will continue to apply to the designated wilderness study areas.

General Summary of Public Comments

More than 140 comments concerned with the proposed decisions on the 30 selected inventory units in southeast Oregon were received at the state and district offices and at public meetings and open houses. Some comments referred to the wilderness review in general terms, some made statements about inventory procedures, and many contained statements pertaining to one or more inventory units. The summary narratives for each unit contain a paragraph discussing the unit-specific comments. In the paragraphs below the general comments and procedural issues are discussed.

Only those comments which contained substantive information about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in specific inventory units were considered in the review of the proposed decisions. The discussions below and in the summary narratives present brief reviews of all comments received.

There were 22 comments which referred to the wilderness review in general terms. Eighteen of them supported designation of wilderness study areas. One comment mentioned the concern that both wilderness needs and the needs for four-wheel drive recreational areas be satisfied. Three general comments were opposed to the designation of any wilderness study areas, and one of these was a petition with more than 1,300 signatures.

Many of the comments mentioned concern about the identification of roads within inventory units -- roads which had not previously been identified and which have the effect of dividing inventory units into subunits. The original identification of roads and delineation of unit boundaries during the initial inventory was based largely on office information that was known to be incomplete for some inventory units. The intensive inventory is the phase in the wilderness review program for field investigations of roads and of wilderness characteristics. Information obtained from the field and the public during the intensive inventory resulted in many types of changes: routes mapped as ways were found to be roads, and roads were found to be ways; new roads were identified, and mapped roads were found not to exist; subunits were formed and some units were combined. Many comments urged that specific roads be redefined as ways so subunits could be combined into larger wilderness study areas. In those cases where comments identified specific roads which appeared to the writers to be more appropriately defined as ways, or identified ways which the writers felt should be mapped as roads, BLM reevaluated the routes in question prior to making the final decisions.

Summary of Final Decisions

	DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
		LAKEVIEW		
	1-76	Steamboat Point		20,040
	1-77	Juniper Canyon		9,920
	1-78	Orejana Rim	22,800	5,400
	1-105	Skokum Lake		30,000
	1-111	East Coyote Hills		17,200
		BURNS		
	2-1	Coleman Creek		62,885
	2-2	Warm Springs-Black Butte		48,950
	2-11	Dietrich Cabin		11,300
	2-12	House Butte		32,940
	2-13	Bartlett Mountain		8,850
	2-14	Malheur River-Bluebucket Creek	5,560	120
	2-15	Otis Mountain		40,470
	2-16	Cottonwood Creek		7,670
	2-17	Rocky Basin		12,700
	2-21	Beaver Tables I		9,400
	2-23	Stonehouse		128,035
	2-23L		21,000	
	2-23M		8,090	4,500
	2-24	Fisher Flat		18,290
	2-26	Diamond Craters		15,045
	2-74	Alvord Desert		134,260
	2-74F		160,890	950
	2-79	Pueblo Slough		22,755
*	2-81	Pueblo Mountains		12,370
*	2-81L		67,430	3,690
	2-82	Rincon		44,880
	2-82H		97,395	6,455
		VALE		
	3-36	Roger's Place		13,020
	3-151	Whitehorse Butte		9,120
	3-154	Sand Dunes		6,680
	3-156	Fifteenmile		740
	3-156A		48,500	11,600
	3-199	Willow Butte		5,890
		PRINEVILLE		
	5-14	Steelhead Falls		3,240
	5-57	Peter Well		10,966
	5-58	Imperial Well		6,157

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to the unit narrative for information about the contiguous portions in Nevada.

Descriptions of Units and Explanations of Final Decisions

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT

Unit Number: 1-76

Unit Name: Steamboat Point

Description

Size: This unit contains 20,040 acres of public land. There is one state inholding of 640 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles north of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: The primary boundaries of this unit are BLM maintained roads 6155G, 6255E, and 6255F. At four points the boundary is defined by private or state lands. These lands delineate approximately four miles of boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of uplifts and valleys commonly associated with the basin and range province. Juniper Ridge, located in the western and northern portion of the unit, is a moderate ridge with several side canyons, containing fairly dense juniper stands and interesting erosion features. Vegetation in the unit is big sagebrush with stands of juniper on Juniper Ridge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains approximately five and one-half miles of ways, one and one-half miles of fenceline, a wildlife guzzler, and one reservoir removed from the boundary. There are several reservoirs on the boundary road surrounding the unit but they do not present any significant impact within the unit. A major intrusion is located in Section 22, 26, 27, and 35; T. 31 S., R. 26 E., in the form of a drilled seeding known as the Kit Canyon seeding. This 320-acre seeding is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The topography and vegetation do offer some opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. Because of the extremely narrow aspect of the north portion of the unit the opportunity is not outstanding. The south portion is sage cover in a broad valley, which does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking and backpacking, wildlife observation, bird watching and potentially hunting, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit has a high potential for archeological values.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One recommends that all but a 320-acre seeding be designated a wilderness study area; and the other appears to suggest that the unit should be a wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: One comment was very general in nature. The second comment suggested dropping the Kit Canyon seeding and retaining the rest of the unit. The commentor felt the area did represent outstanding solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Although the unit offers some potential for solitude and recreation, the opportunities are not outstanding. The area's size, configuration and topography limit the potential of the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Unit Number: 1-77

Unit Name: Juniper Canyon

Description

Size: 9,920 acres of public land; 1,560 acres of private and state inholdings located in four parcels.

Location: 30 miles north of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM roads in the north, south, and east. The west boundary is a combination of a BLM road and state and private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant vegetation is big sagebrush and associated species. Topography is generally typical of the basin and range province with north to south trending fault block uplifts and depressions forming narrow valleys in the center and western portions of the unit. A northeast running uplift leaves a high ridge on the northwest and a shallow valley on the northeast of the unit below Rock Camp Lake. The south end of the unit opens onto the flats of an ancient lakebed which forms the Warner Valley.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The central and southeast portions of the unit, approximately 60 percent of the unit, are in a natural condition. The remainder of the unit does not meet the criteria for naturalness. There are three ways and a lake bed pit in the northeast portion of the unit, which are substantially noticeable. In the west portion of the unit, there are two ways and a cabin. The cabin and the way parallel to the boundary road are very noticeable. The second way is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit due to access potential, low vegetative cover, and the narrow width of the entire unit. The topographic exposure is such that people cannot readily isolate themselves from others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and birdwatching. However, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit is known to have anthropological values, although no intensive cultural resources inventory has as yet been accomplished.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One recommends that the unit be designated a wilderness study area, and the other appears to suggest that the unit should be a wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The two public comments favoring retaining the unit for wilderness study were general in nature and disagreed with the evaluation of solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. One comment also suggested rehabilitation of the boundary roads to create a larger unit; it did not dispute the classification of the roads.

After reconsidering the characteristics of the unit and the evaluation which led to the proposed decision, it remains clear that the area lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit

is also limited by size, configuration, topography and vegetative cover so that outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present. The elimination of roads is beyond the scope of the inventory process. The inventory evaluations are not influenced by speculation about the possibilities of eliminating boundary roads. Conversely, the interim management policy precludes construction of new roads in wilderness study areas.

Unit Number: 1-78

Unit Name: Orejana Rim

Description

Size: 28,200 acres of public land. The unit contains 1,280 acres of state inholdings.

Location: 30 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: The north and west boundaries are BLM road 7175. The east and south boundaries are BLM road 7165. There is a half-mile long deadend road into Shingle Reservoir in the southeast section of the unit.

Physical Characteristics: The north end of the unit is a broad draw known as "The Basin". The southwest quarter of the unit is a sage and greasewood flat below the Orejana Rim. The rim rises approximately 500 feet above the flat. The rim is a north to south trending fault scarp. The remaining portion of the unit is a flat mesa above the Orejana Rim which is dissected by Orejana Canyon. The canyon runs north to south. It reaches a maximum depth of approximately 500 feet and a width of one-quarter mile. Vegetation in the unit is primarily big sagebrush and related species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A way paralleling the Orejana Rim is located high on the colluvial slope below the rim and is substantially noticeable from a 5,400-acre block of sage flats to the west of the rim. The rest of the unit appears generally natural. There are three minor ways in the north of the unit and a one half-mile-long road into Shingle Reservoir on the southeast. The unit has four reservoirs, Hartman, Terry, Headwater, and Shingle, which range from .9 to 3.3 acre feet in size. These reservoirs remain substantially unnoticeable within the unit due to topography and vegetation. The unit has one fenceline approximately three miles long. Denis Cabin and Cabin Waterhole are located immediately adjacent to the north boundary road and do not significantly affect the unit.

Solitude: This unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The topographic isolation offered by the Orejana Rim and the canyon to the east provide opportunity for one to be isolated from the presence of others in the unit. The basin to the north and rolling hills to the west of the basin are large enough areas to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for wildlife observation, backpacking, hunting as well as other forms of unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area is of interest geologically, with the rugged north trending fault scarps and exposures of banded glassy lava

flows and tuffacious beds containing inclusions of exceptionally clear obsidian. The area has archeological interest though sites are not presently defined.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to designate a 22,800-acre wilderness study area and to eliminate 5,400 acres in the southwest corner because the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifty-two comments were received. Forty-four indicated support of the proposed decision. Four comments supported wilderness study area status but with changes to the proposed decision. Two of those thought the north end of the unit should not be part of the wilderness study area because it is not natural, while two comments argued that the area proposed for elimination from further review should also be designated part of the wilderness study area. Three comments opposed the proposed decision, one saying the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation and one because of the limits wilderness study area status might put on wildlife management options. One comment mentioned concern about access to and management of a state-owned section within the wilderness study area; and one comment stated that a way going into the unit should be a road. The issues of management and access are study phase considerations and do not affect the inventory decisions.

Final Decision: Designate 22,800-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 5,400 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The majority of the public comments received supported the proposed decision to designate a 22,800-acre wilderness study area.

As a result of field investigations of issues raised in public comments, a one-half mile way into Shingle Reservoir was determined to be a road. A way referred to in the northern part of the unit was examined and is still considered to be a way. This way was bladed at the time of construction of Headwater Reservoir to facilitate travel of construction equipment. The way is not on the district transportation plan and is not intended to be maintained to assure relatively regular and continuous use. The need for access on this route for reservoir maintenance and livestock operations was pointed out and the question of such access will be addressed during the study phase. A comment on the eliminated portion noted the impact of the way which forms its eastern boundary, but still favored including it in the wilderness study area.

The eliminated portion is an extremely flat, exposed and narrow segment, isolated from the rest of the unit by the Orejana Rim. It is not considered suitable for wilderness study, as it lacks sufficient naturalness because of its extreme exposure to any disturbance within the area, up to the way identified as the east boundary.

Unit Number: 1-105

Unit Name: Skokum Lake

Description

Size: 30,000 acres of public land; 920 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 15 miles northwest of Plush.

Boundaries: The boundaries on the north, south, and west are well bladed BLM roads. The east boundary is Hogback Road, a county road.

Physical Characteristics: The entire unit is flat table-land ending on the northeast at Commodore Ridge. At the ridge there is a drop of 80 to 200 feet with a narrow strip of land between the ridge and Hogback Road. There is a gradual rise in elevation throughout the unit from Commodore Ridge to the southern boundary. Rabbit Creek crosses the unit from south to north and approximately one-fourth mile from the northern boundary it merges with Foley Creek. This combined drainage at the northern boundary is approximately one-fourth mile wide. Mary Ann Draw is a minor draw which crosses the southeast corner of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it is not substantially free of the works of man. The unit has approximately 23 miles of ways, eight water developments which are substantially noticeable and six miles of fenceline. There are also 605 acres of drilled seedings in the unit which do not appear natural.

Solitude: This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The low sagebrush cover on the unit and lack of significant topographic relief throughout the unit preclude any opportunity for one to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers hunting opportunities. However, primitive recreation potential for backpacking or other non-motorized recreation activities is limited.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One recommends that the unit be designated a wilderness study area, and the other appears to suggest that the unit should be a wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit narrative describes eight water developments in the unit, 23 miles of vehicle ways and 605 acres of drilled seeding. These developments are dispersed throughout the unit. The cumulative impacts of these features are substantially noticeable and the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. The unit also offers no significant opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others within it.

Unit Number: 1-111

Unit Name: East Coyote Hills

Description

Size: This unit contains 17,200 acres of public land; 400 acres of private inholdings and 480 acres of state land.

Location: Five miles northwest of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary is Hogback road, the north and south boundaries are BLM roads, and the west boundary is private land and BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit consists of a group of small hills with rolling contours on the north and east with moderately steep slopes in the central portion of the hills. Vegetative cover on the unit is

sagebrush with isolated stands of junipers in the draws. There are several springs in the unit with riparian vegetation in restricted areas around these springs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has many scattered tunnels and shafts from past mining activity. There is a heavy concentration of substantially noticeable tunnels, shafts and associated ways in the Miners Draw area and on the higher slopes above the draw. There are numerous faint ways on the eastern flanks of the hills. There are water developments and spring enclosures in the Mulkey Wells Draw area which have significant cumulative impacts on the unit. There are approximately 11 miles of ways in the north part of the unit which are substantially noticeable and result in a non-natural condition in this portion of the unit. There is a 460-acre drilled seeding in the northeast corner of the unit which is substantially noticeable. There is a narrow flat along the eastern boundary road which appears in a generally natural condition. However, the majority of the unit appears in an unnatural condition.

Solitude: Although this unit is situated in a hilly area, the slopes and exposure throughout are such that one would not be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities in the unit would be extremely limited. The numerous mining claims on the unit would severely restrict rock hound activity which otherwise would represent the most probable form of recreation. There is some opportunity for hunting in the unit but it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One recommends that the unit be designated a wilderness study area, and the other appears to suggest that the unit should be a wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: As stated in the description above, this unit contains numerous, dispersed imprints of man's works throughout the majority of its area. The unit is not considered to be affected primarily by the forces of nature because man's works are substantially noticeable. The unit also lacks opportunity for solitude. Valid existing mining claims restrict the potential use by recreationists on much of the unit.

BURNS DISTRICT

Unit Number: 2-1

Unit Name: Coleman Creek

Inventory Unit 2-1 contains approximately 62,885 acres. The difference in the acreage from that in the report on the proposed decision is a result of recalculation. Roads divide the unit into 20 subunits. Sixteen of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 60 to 4,870 acres. None of the sixteen subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-1C

Description

Size: 9,850 acres of BLM land; 480 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Six miles northeast of Crane.

Boundaries: Roads form the north, east and west boundaries; private property bounds the south.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of several parallel ridges running from north to south. Crane Creek is the major drainage, flowing south between the two main ridgelines. The extreme northern part consists of rolling foothills. Juniper is found along the rocky portions of the ridges and slopes and big sage and grass are common throughout the entire subunit. Some small patches of willow and aspen are located in the drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Seven ways totaling nine miles, four and one-half miles of fenceline, five wildlife and livestock reservoirs and several campsites used primarily by hunters are located within the subunit. The developments are dispersed throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The gentle slopes, open valleys and scattered stands of juniper prevent visitors from achieving an outstanding feeling of solitude. In addition, there is a narrow subunit protruding into the northern area and a two mile long extension of private land into the southern portion which create a configuration that does not enhance the opportunity for one to find solitude. The combination of the configuration and lack of vegetative and topographic screening prevent an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for recreational activities which include hiking, fishing, rockhounding and hunting but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit provides crucial winter range for mule deer.

Subunit Number: 2-1K

Description

Size: 8,060 acres of BLM land; 320 acres of private land.

Location: Six miles northeast of Crane.

Boundaries: Roads bound the entire subunit except on the southwest and northeast where private property forms the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The northern part of the subunit consist of Coleman Mountain, which is the southern-most ridge of the Stinkingwater Mountains. Coleman Creek is the major drainage and flows southeast between two small plateaus in the center of the subunit. The southern and eastern portions of the area are comprised of the southern slopes of a ridgeline located east of Subunit K. Juniper are located in the north and are generally scattered. Sagebrush and grass are common in the entire subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: There are six livestock and wildlife reservoirs, one spring development, six miles of fenceline and two ways totaling two miles. These developments are dispersed throughout the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The topography is generally diverse; however, the subunit is only two miles wide or less. The scattered juniper in the northern end would provide only limited opportunities for visitors to avoid one another. The southern end of the subunit lacks vegetative screening, and there is no opportunity for seclusion. A combination of narrow width, lack of vegetative screening and open expanses on the slopes would prevent visitors from finding an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for recreational activities including hiking, fishing and hunting; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Coleman Creek contains crucial stream habitat for redband trout. Also, beaver are present and have built a dam on Coleman Creek. The area serves as crucial winter range for mule deer.

Subunit Number: 2-1M

Description

Size: 11,800 acres of BLM land; 520 acres of private land.

Location: Six miles northeast of Crane.

Boundaries: Roads bound the subunit on the west, north and east. private land forms the southern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of gently rolling hills with two intermittent streams flowing northeast to Warm Springs Reservoir. Juniper occurs in rocky areas with a few scattered throughout the remainder of the subunit. Big sage and grass grow throughout the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Buck Mountain Seeding (1,900 acres) is located in the southern half and Warm Springs Seeding (1,300 acres) lies in the northeastern corner. Neither of them are obvious intrusions and appear substantially unnoticeable. There are six livestock and wildlife reservoirs, 11 miles of fenceline, and three ways totaling one and a half miles. The imprints of man are scattered throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit consists of gently rolling hills that are only sparsely covered with juniper or any other type of vegetation that would enable visitors to screen themselves from others. In addition, the slopes

and plateaus are open expanses of land that would prevent visitors from finding a secluded area. The lack of vegetative screening and the open terrain would prevent an opportunity for achieving outstanding solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting and horseback riding, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The northern end of the subunit is inhabited by wild horses and the subunit provides crucial winter range for mule deer and antelope.

Subunit Number: 2-1N

Description

Size: 17,700 acres of BLM land; 360 acres of private land.

Location: 14 miles northeast of Crane.

Boundaries: State, private and BLM land border the subunit on the south and a combination of roads and private land bound the remaining portions.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the subunit consists of gently rolling hills in the north, east and west. Buck Mountain rises in steep slopes to an elevation of 5,000 feet in the southern end of the subunit. Big sage, low sage and crested wheatgrass are the dominant vegetation types. Juniper are scattered and are not found in thick stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Part of the Buck Mountain Seeding covers 1,900 acres in the southern and western area of the subunit but it is not an obvious intrusion due to the lack of definite boundaries and rows. In addition, there are ten stock and wildlife reservoirs, one spring development, 12.5 miles of fence and two and one half miles of ways. The developments are not substantially noticeable because they are dispersed throughout the subunit.

Solitude: The opportunity for a visitor to achieve outstanding solitude is limited due to the open expanses of land on the gentle slopes, particularly in the northern and central portions. The area on and around Buck Mountain is open and would limit the opportunity for solitude. In addition, the subunit is narrow, with the majority of the area being only two miles wide; given the lack of topography and vegetation screening, an outstanding feeling of solitude would not be achieved by a visitor.

Recreation: Opportunities for several types of recreational activities exist, including hunting, horseback riding and hiking, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit serves as crucial winter habitat for mule deer and antelope.

Proposed Decisions: The proposed decisions were eliminate Subunits C, K, M, and N from further wilderness review because they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. They appear to be in a generally natural condition. Eliminate the 16 other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision; one asserts that Subunits C, K, M, and N have

wilderness characteristics and should be wilderness study areas; and the third recommends that the entire unit be designated a wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunits C, K, M, and N are eliminated because they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation; they appear to be in a basically natural condition. The other subunits do not meet the minimum size criteria.

The comments proposing wilderness study area status basically contend that the opportunities for solitude and recreation are outstanding.

Re-evaluation of these subunits confirms that none of the subunits offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because they have a relatively limited amount of topographic or vegetative screening resulting in a general lack of opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot away from the sights and sounds of others. One comment states that the unit is infrequently visited. Evlauations of opportunities for solitude are based not on existing use levels, but on the characteristics of each unit and the effect of those characteristics on the opportunities provided visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other users.

The opportunities for outstanding primitive recreation are also limited within these subunits. None of these subunits offer exceptional or unusual natural features or recreational attractions which would make the recreational opportunities outstanding.

Unit Number: 2-2

Unit Name: Warm Springs - Black Butte

Inventory Unit 2-2 contains 48,950 acres of public land. One hundred sixty acres of private inholdings occur in three parcels. Unit 2-2 is divided by roads and non-public lands into six subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 90 to 1,750 acres. None of the four subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-2E

Description

Size: 11,920 acres.

Location: Nine miles southeast of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Roads on the north, west, and southwest, non-public land on the east and southeast.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling hills and high plateaus. Upton Mountain rises to 4,860 feet in the center of the subunit. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with some scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains one reservoir, one spring, three fencelines totaling three miles, and one way. The developments are dispersed through the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of vegetative screening and the subunit's limited size. Users would find it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the subunit.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, and trapping, but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The western portion of this subunit provides yearlong antelope habitat.

Subunit Number: 2-2F

Description

Size: 25,980 acres. One hundred sixty acres of private inholdings in three parcels lie within the subunit boundary.

Location: Six miles southeast of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Roads in the northwest, west, south, and east. Public lands determined to lack wilderness characteristics during a 1978 inventory along a proposed powerline route form the northeast and part of the eastern boundary. Two areas of non-public land penetrate from the northwest and south into the center of the subunit to within a half mile of each other.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling hills, high plateaus, and broad, flat expanses. Part of Upton Mountain is located in the southwest. The elevation ranges from 3,500 to over 4,800 feet. The Middle Fork of the Malheur River flows through the center of the area but only a small portion is found in the subunit itself as most of it flows through non-public land. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush, scattered juniper, and an area of native grasses in the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The western part of the subunit contains five reservoirs, four to five miles of fenceline, and one way. The eastern portion contains nine reservoirs, over eight miles of fence, and three ways. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable because the developments are scattered, the subunit is large, and it has somewhat varied relief.

Solitude: Where the topography consists of gently rolling hills the subunit provides a modest opportunity for solitude, but it is not outstanding due to the lack of vegetative screening and the open expanses between hills. Users do not have an outstanding opportunity to screen themselves from others or to find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, fishing and trapping. However, this subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for any of these activities.

Supplemental Values: Crucial deer winter range occurs in the north and year-long antelope range is found in the west. A small number of wild horses live on the eastern side of this subunit.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decisions were to eliminate Subunits E and F from further wilderness review because they do not offer outstanding

opportunities for solitude or recreation, and to eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision; one states that Subunits E and F should be designated wilderness study areas; and the third recommends a 34,000-acre wilderness study area without identifying the location of the acres to be eliminated from further review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Subunits E and F are eliminated because neither was found to possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation; both are basically natural with man's work substantially unnoticeable.

None of the comments submitted provided any information to support a change from the proposed decision.

The comment recommending wilderness study area status for Subunits E and F suggests that outstanding opportunities for solitude should be based on geographic location and potential visitation. Evaluations of opportunities for solitude are not based on a unit's remoteness from towns or ranches or on a unit's potential level of use. The evaluations are based on the characteristics of each unit and the effect of those characteristics on the opportunities provided visitors to avoid other users within the unit. These factors include a unit's size, shape, topography, and vegetation. These factors do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude in this unit.

The comment recommending a 34,000-acre wilderness study area was not clear with respect to identifying the portions of the unit to be recommended. It did state that the unit should be along the Malheur River and that the BLM should acquire land along the river to include a complete ecosystem. A key concept in the inventory is that the evaluations are not influenced by speculation about the possibilities of acquiring land. Conversely, the interim management policy precludes disposal of public lands in wilderness study areas.

Unit Number: 2-11

Unit Name: Dietrich Cabin

Inventory Unit 2-11 contains 11,300 acres of BLM land. Roads divide the unit into five subunits. All five subunits contain less than 5,000 acres ranging in size from 85 to 4,580 acres. Three of the subunits do not meet any of the minimum size critera for wilderness study areas. They are not described below. Two of the subunits are contiguous to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning, and thus meet a size criterion.

Subunit Number: 2-11C

Description

Size: 3,160 acres.

Location: 11 miles west of Drewsey.

Boundaries: The Forest Service Pine Creek RARE II Area bounds one and one-quarter sections on the west side of the subunit; private land bounds the remaining western portion and eastern side; roads bound the north and south sides.

Physical Characteristics: The southern portion is comprised of three small buttes from which two streams flow in an easterly direction. The central part consists of gentle slopes, and the northern area contains the steep-sided canyon of Muddy Creek flows. Ponderosa pine, juniper and grass grow in the northern half of the subunit. Big and low sage are the predominant vegetation types in the southern half.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets a size criterion for wilderness study areas because it is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning.

Naturalness: A washed-out reservoir, one way, and eight miles of fence are located within the subunit. They are dispersed over the entire area they are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Three quarters of the subunit are one mile wide or less, and the remaining area is one and one-half to two miles wide. The vegetation and topography would provide some screening. However, it would not provide the opportunity for one to achieve outstanding solitude. Due to the narrow width and limited topographic and vegetative screening, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting and horseback riding. However, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit serves as a migratory route for mule deer as they move between summer range in the Malheur National Forest and winter ranges along the west and south sides of Stinkingwater Mountain.

Subunit Number: 2-11D

Description

Size: 4,580 acres.

Location: 11 miles west of Drewsey.

Boundaries: The Pine Creek RARE II Study Area bounds the subunit on the west; private land forms the boundary on the south and east, and a road bounds the subunit on the north.

Physical Characteristics: The western half of the subunit consists of the east slopes of Elephant Butte from which two intermittent streams flow. The remainder of the area consists of a flat-topped butte with a stream that flows into Pine Creek, south of the subunit. Juniper is found along the drainages as well as in the rocky areas of the butte. Low sage and grass are common throughout the remainder of the subunit. The entire area is extremely rocky.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets a size criterion for wilderness study areas because it is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning.

Naturalness: There are one and one half miles of fenceline on the eastern boundary and two livestock and wildlife reservoirs within the subunit. The developments are scattered throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit is four miles wide and less than two miles long. The western part of the subunit provides little opportunity for

solitude because of the low vegetation, gentle slope of the land and lack of vegetative screening. The drainage in the central and eastern portion provides a better opportunity for solitude than the western area but it is not outstanding. The butte is covered with low sage and grass and doesn't offer an outstanding opportunity for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Because of the limited vegetative and topographic screening and narrow size, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, and horseback riding are provided but they are not outstanding because of the lack of challenge and diversity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decisions were to eliminate Subunits C and D from further wilderness review. They appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable. However, they do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreational activities. It was also proposed to eliminate three other subunits from further review because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision, one states that Subunits C and D should be designated wilderness study areas along with contiguous Forest Service land, and the third recommends a joint study by BLM and the Forest Service of adjoining federal lands.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although two of the subunits within this area are adjacent to the Forest Service Pine Creek RARE II area designated for further planning, these subunits do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Re-evaluation of the subunits confirms that neither of these subunits contain any exceptional or unusual natural or recreational features which would provide the visitor with an outstanding primitive recreational experience.

Because of their relatively small size, irregular configurations, narrowness (both are less than two miles wide and are surrounded by private land), and general lack of vegetative screening, these subunits do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The adjacent Pine Creek RARE II area is primarily oriented around the Pine Creek drainage. Subunit D contains intermittent tributaries to this drainage, but none of Pine Creek lies within the BLM inventory unit. Further, each subunit's common boundary with the Forest Service unit is limited to just over one mile. These factors, coupled with the poor configuration of the subunits themselves and their lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation, would add little to the potential wilderness values of the RARE II area.

With respect to the comment suggesting a joint study of the adjoining federal lands, the existence of the contiguous National Forest lands was considered in the inventory. As indicated above, it was concluded that the unit does not enhance any wilderness values which might exist in the National Forest.

Unit Number: 2-12

Unit Name: House Butte

Inventory Unit 2-12 contains 32,940 acres of public land. The difference in the acreage from that announced in the report on the proposed decision is a result of recalculation. It has inholdings of 560 acres of state land and 2,680 acres of private land. Unit 2-12 is divided by roads into 12 subunits. Nine of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 250 to 4,220 acres. None of the nine subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-12H

Description

Size: 7,300 acres.

Location: Seven miles west of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Roads and private land on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of mountains formed by a steep uplift and faulted volcanics which form rock outcroppings. The vegetation includes stiff sage, juniper and big sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains eight and one-half miles of fenceline, three springs, one reservoir, and one mile of way. The developments are substantially unnoticeble.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude, but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for rock scrambling, hiking, hunting (antelope, deer, and upland game), horseback riding, rockhounding, and trapping; but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Teepee rings, suspected sage grouse strutting grounds, summer antelope range.

Subunit Number: 2-12I

Description

Size: 8,800 acres.

Location: Eight miles west of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Private land on the north and west, a road and private land on the south, and a road and public land on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is mountainous with well defined drainages. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and juniper with an area of native grasses in the east.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three springs, one reservoir, four and one-half miles of fence, and a way. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, (deer upland game), horseback riding, rockhounding, and trapping, but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-12J

Description

Size: 5,080 acres.

Location: Two miles southwest of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Private land on the north and east, Highway 20 on the southeast, a road and private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of mountains and lowlands. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush, native grasses, and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two miles of fenceline, three springs, one and one-half miles of ways: The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening and the narrow configuration of the subunit.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting (deer and upland game), trapping, and rockhounding but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decisions were to eliminate Subunits H, I, and J from further wilderness review. They generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. It was also proposed to eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision, one states that subunits H and I should be designated wilderness study areas, and the third does not make a specific recommendation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunits H and I are eliminated because they do not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation; they both appear to be in a basically natural condition. The remaining subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

The comment recommending that these subunits be designated as wilderness study areas states that outstanding opportunities for solitude should be evaluated on the basis of the area's geographical location, and the potential for visitor use. Before the inventory began, the Bureau stated in its Wilderness Inventory Handbook that opportunities for solitude would be evaluated on the basis of an area's physical characteristics and the effect of those characteristics on the ability of users to avoid the presence of others visitors within the unit. Characteristics assessed in the inventory

include an area's size, shape, topography, and vegetation. Re-evaluation of this area confirms that these factors do not provide users an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Unit Number: 2-13

Unit Name: Bartlett Mountain

Description

Size: 8,850 acres.

Location: Four miles southwest of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Highway 20 forms the north boundary, private land forms part of the boundary on the west, south, southeast and east, roads complete the boundary on the east and southeast.

Physical Characteristics: The northeast portion of the unit is flat while the remainder consists of gently rolling hills which rise to a plateau on top of Bartlett Mountain in the center of the unit. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush with some scattered juniper in the draws and on the west side of the mountain.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three fenced springs, two reservoirs, six miles of fence, a crested wheatgrass seeding of 240 acres, a powerline, and several short ways. The developments are dispersed throughout the unit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The northeast portion of the unit does not offer an opportunity for solitude because of the flat topography, small size, and low vegetative cover. The remainder of the unit offers a somewhat better opportunity for solitude due to the rolling hills and scattered juniper in the interior. However, this opportunity is limited by the small area involved and the gentleness of the slopes. This unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting (deer, antelope and chukar), trapping, and rockhounding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: An old cabin is located at Miler Spring. The eastern portion of the unit provides yearlong antelope range.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The unit appears to be generally natural.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. They concur with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears to be in a natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The public comments received concur with the proposed decision and no additional information has been received to support a change.

Unit Number: 2-14

Unit Name: Malheur River-Bluebucket Creek

Inventory Unit 2-14 contains 5,680 acres. The unit is divided by a road into two subunits. Subunit 2-14B contains only 120 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-14A

Description

Size: 5,560 acres.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Drewsey.

Boundaries: One-half mile of Malheur National Forest land on the north, three miles of road on the southeast, and private land on the remaining boundaries. The boundary includes two miles of dead end road.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of two high, flat-top plateaus in the south and one plateau with gently rolling hills in the north. Between these plateaus flow the Malheur River and Bluebucket Creek. Rocky rims ring the plateaus. Steep canyon walls drop into the river and creek bottoms. Elevation ranges from 4,180 feet to 5,200 feet. The vegetation includes big and low sagebrush, juniper, mountain mahogany, and ponderosa pine.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five reservoirs, three spring developments, three miles of fence, and two and one-half miles of vehicle ways. Most of these developments occur near the perimeter of the subunit, making the imprint of man's work appear substantially unnoticeable throughout most of the area.

Solitude: The topography, the limited vegetative screening in much of this subunit, and the poor configuration of the boundary make it difficult to achieve an outstanding opportunity for solitude in much of this subunit. However, the vegetative screening provided by the ponderosa pine in the river bottoms does provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for fishing, hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, sightseeing, and hunting are all offered within this subunit. Individually or in combination with each other, opportunities for these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers scenic values in the canyon and overviews from the rims around the plateaus. The area provides critical deer winter range in addition to being in the migratory route for a local deer herd.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to designate a 5,560-acre wilderness study area. The subunit appears natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifty-one comments were received. Fifty indicated support of the proposed decision. One favored wilderness study area designation with a variation on the proposal, suggesting the proposed wilderness study area be combined with Subunits 2-15H and 2-15L. One of these comments requested a joint study by BLM and the Forest Service of

adjacent federal lands. One comment suggested the unit should not be a wilderness study area because of its relatively small size.

Final Decision: Designate a 5,560-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate Subunit B from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A appears to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. In addition, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

The comment proposing that Unit 2-14 be combined with Subunits 2-15H and L states that these subunits would be useful as buffers for the proposed wilderness study area. The inventory phase is limited to the assessment of wilderness characteristics and does not address issues of management. These subunits are not directly adjacent to 2-14.

The Forest Service has completed wilderness review of land it administers and has concluded the lands adjacent to this unit will not be recommended for wilderness.

Although the area is relatively small it meets the naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation criteria and therefore qualifies for wilderness study area designation. None of the comments received provided information which supported a change from the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 2-15

Unit Name: Otis Mountain

Inventory Unit 2-15 contains 40,470 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into 19 subunits, 17 of which contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 360 acres to 3,170 acres.

Subunit Number: 2-15H

Description

Size: 9,540 acres with one section of state inholding.

Location: Five miles northwest of Drewsey.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by a road, and on all other sides by private land and small sections of road which connect the private parcels. The boundaries include two miles of dead end road.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature of this subunit is Merlie Table, a high, relatively flat-topped plateau. The plateau comprises nearly all of the subunit except for the southern and southwestern portions where it drops off into the Drewsey Valley. Much of the southern portion of the table has rocky rims and small drainages. The elevation ranges from 3,800 feet to 5,111 feet at the summit of Merlie Butte. The vegetation includes big, low, and stiff sagebrush, grasses and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Twelve miles of fenceline, four and one half miles of vehicle ways, and a reservoir. These developments are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The topography and vegetative screening offered within this subunit do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Activities such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, sightseeing and hunting could all occur in this subunit, but none of the opportunities for these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area contains critical deer winter range and is in the migratory route for the local deer herd.

Subunit Number: 2-15L

Description

Size: This subunit contains 6,770 acres of public land with a 160 acre parcel of private land inholding.

Location: Eight miles north of Drewsey in Harney County.

Boundaries: On the north and east by BLM roads except for a small corner of private land on the east, and on the south and west by private lands and small sections of roads. One mile of dead end road to the summit of Otis Mountain forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The major features of this subunit include Otis Mountain and Birch Creek (an intermittent stream). The subunit is dominated by a ridge running through the center, which slopes sharply to the east into Birch Creek, and gently to the west. Otis Mountain is at the north end of this ridge. The elevation varies from 4,000 to 6,077 feet. The vegetation consists of big and low sagebrush, grasses, juniper, mountain mahogany, and ponderosa pine (in the Birch Creek Drainage).

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Nine reservoirs, five miles of fenceline, six miles of vehicle ways, and a radio facility at the end of the dead end road on the summit of Otis Mountain. Although these developments are relatively concentrated within a small area, the works of man generally appear to be substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Because of the subunit's small size and poor shape and the limited topographic and vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: Activities that are possible within this subunit include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting. The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area provides critical deer winter range as well as being within the migratory route for the local deer herd.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decisions were to eliminate Subunits H and L from from further wilderness review because they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. They appear to be in a relatively natural condition.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two asserted that Subunit L has wilderness characteristics and should be designated as a wilderness study area, and one recommended that Subunits H and L both be designated wilderness study areas. The fourth comment requested that the inventory decision be postponed and that adjoining federal lands be studied jointly by BLM and the Forest Service.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The re-evaluation of these subunits confirms that while both Subunits H and L appear to be in a basically natural condition, neither offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

None of the comments provided any information which would support a change from the proposed decision.

One comment requesting the wilderness study area designation of Subunit L states that the area is a "fine virgin oasis (and) needs further study" without providing any additional information. Although this area appears to be generally natural, it does contain grazing developments.

The other comment requesting wilderness study area status for Subunit L states that the solitude criteria should be based on geographic location and visitation potential. When it distributed the Wilderness Inventory Handbook to the public at the beginning of the inventory, the Bureau stated its intention to evaluate solitude on the basis of a person's opportunity to avoid the presence of others within the inventory unit. In addition, the handbook suggests that these factors are primarily physical and include the area's shape, size, and natural screening. These factors do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude in Subunit L.

The comment stating that both H and L be proposed as wilderness study areas suggests that these subunits would be useful as buffers for Unit 2-14A (an identified wilderness study area), and that even though they may not meet the solitude/recreation characteristics they should still be considered. Management issues such as buffers will not be considered until the study phase of the wilderness review. These units are not directly adjacent to Unit 2-14. All areas must meet at least one of the solitude/recreation criteria to be considered as a wilderness study area.

Subunits H and L are not contiguous to National Forest land. Some of the smaller subunits are contiguous to a National Forest, but they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria. The Forest Service has reviewed the adjacent National Forest land and determined it does not have wilderness characteristics.

Unit Number: 2-16

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek

Inventory Unit 2-16 contains 7,670 acres of BLM land. It is divided by roads and non-public lands into five subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging from 45 to 865 acres. None of the four subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-16A

Description

Size: 6,410 acres.

Location: Six miles north of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Malheur National Forest and private land form the northern boundary; private, state and public land bound the eastern side;

private land and a road form the southern boundary and BLM land, state land and a road form the western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of rolling hills. The general slope of the area is to the east. Squaw Creek is one of the major drainages and flows south into Cottonwood Creek. Cottonwood Reservoir is located on the eastern boundary and is 85 surface acres when full. The vegetation consists of ponderosa pine and juniper in the north and scattered juniper, big and low sage and grass in the remainder of the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two reservoirs are located within one-quarter mile of the boundary. Three ways are concentrated in the central portion. Two and one-half miles of fence exist. Cottonwood Reservoir is one mile long and one-quarter mile wide and is a substantial intrusion due to the dam and spillway structures. A borrow pit is located on a hilltop in the western side of the subunit. The reservoirs, borrow pit, and ways are concentrated in the center of the subunit, making the imprints of man substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The entire subunit is two miles wide or less, and the low vegetation in three-quarters of the area provides little screening. The juniper and ponderosa pine in the north provide good screening, but the area is only one-half mile wide where most of the vegetation occurs. Because of the narrow size of the area and limited topographic and vegetative screening, this subunit does not offer the user an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing and horseback riding exist within the subunit, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate Subunit A from further wilderness review because the works of man are substantially noticeable. In addition, the area lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. It was also prposed to eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, and they concur with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A is the only subunit large enough to be considered as a wilderness study area. Because of the concentration and size of the developments, man's work is substantially noticeable and the unit no longer appears to be in a natural condition. In addition, the subunit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The public comments received concur with the proposed decision and no additional information has been received to support a change.

Unit Number: 2-17

Unit Name: Rocky Basin

Inventory Unit 2-17 contains 12,700 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into six subunits. Five subunits contain less than 5,000

acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimun size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 70 acres to 4,730 acres.

Subunit Number: 2-17E

Description

Size: 5,980 acres of public land; one 160 acre parcel of private land inholding.

Location: Six miles northeast of Drewsey.

Boundaries: Roads form the boundaries on the west, north, east and part of the south with private and state lands forming the remainder of the southern boundary. One mile of dead end road forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains desert lowlands, gently rolling hills, and a high, flat plateau. The elevation ranges from 3,700 to 5,088 feet. The dominant vegetation is big sage, grass, and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum criteria for wildernss study areas.

Naturalness: Six reservoirs, five miles of fence, six vehicle ways totaling about seven miles, and fire trails. Most of the developments are concentrated in the center of the subunit. The location of these developments and the relatively small size of the unit combine to make the works of man substantially noticeable in this subunit.

Solitude: Although the subunit has topographic diversity, it is not sufficient to compensate for the general lack of vegetative screening and small size. The subunit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and hunting; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Critical winter deer habitat.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate Subunit E from further wilderness review because it does not generally appear to be in a natural condition; the imprints of man are substantially noticeable. In addition, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and the other urges that Subunit E be designated a wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Subunit E is the only subunit within the unit which meets the minimum size criteria. The area is eliminated from further review due to the presence of man-made developments which are substantially noticeable and make the subunit appear to be in a generally unnatural condition, and because the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment urging designation as a wilderness study area suggests that the subunit was eliminated solely because it lacked sufficient topographic or

vegetative screening to provide outstanding solitude. Although lack of vegetative screening was a factor, the subunit also lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation and does not appear to be in a natural condition.

Unit Number: 2-21

Unit Name: Beaver Tables I

Inventory Unit 2-21 contains 9,400 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into 11 subunits. The subunits range in size from 40 to 2,325 acres. None meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate all the subunits from further wilderness review because they do not meet any of the minimium size criteria.

Summary of Putlic Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision, and the other requests that the inventory decision be postponed.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is eliminated because roads divide the area into subunits of less than 5,000 acres. The comment requesting that the decision be postponed states that these areas were arbitrarily dropped because of their size. The Wilderness Act states that an area must contain at least 5,000 acres of land or be of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Because none of the subunits meet these criteria, and no additional information has been provided to suggest otherwise, these subunits are eliminated from further consideration.

Unit Number: 2-23

Unit Name: Stonehouse

Inventory Unit 2-23 contains 161,625 acres of public land. The difference in acreage from that in the report on the proposed decisions is a result of recalculation. Inholdings include 3,560 acres of state land and 21,600 acres of private land. Unit 2-23 is divided by roads and non-public lands into 67 subunits: Fifty-nine of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 20 to 4,890 acres. None of the 59 subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-23G

Description

Size: 20,900 acres of public land; 280 acres of private land in four inholdings.

Location: 45 miles southeast of Burns.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private land and State Highway 78; the east boundary is private land and one mile of Highway 78; the south and west boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is comprised of two high ridges with an intermittent stream flowing east through them. The eastern slopes are generally steeper than others in the subunit. Juniper is common on the rock outcroppings on the steep slopes as well as in the drainages. Big and low sage and grass are found throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the size criteria.

Naturalness: Fifteen wildlife and stock reservoirs are located throughout the subunit; there are twelve miles of fences and four ways totaling four and one-half miles. None of these developments is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: A road extends four miles into the main valley and deadends at a 700-acre parcel of private land. The road and private land act as a boundary which creates two narrow strips of land in the main portion of the subunit. This would prevent one from achieving an outstanding sense of solitude. Even though the diverse topography and presence of some screening vegetation would allow one to achieve a sense of solitude, the configuration of the subunit prevents the opportunity from being outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit provides the opportunity for several types of recreational activities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting but none are considered to be outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses inhabit the subunit and lands adjacent to it.

Subunit Number: 2-23J

Description

Size: 6,200 acres of public land; one 40 acre parcel of private inholding.

Location: 45 miles southeast of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads bound the entire subunit with the exception of the northwest corner which is bounded by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of two small ridges running along the north and south boundaries, with Neal's Lake situated between them on the east side. Neal's Lake is a large flat area consisting of a dry meadow. One intermittent stream flows east through the area. Sagebrush is found throughout the subunit, while juniper is common only on the rocky areas on the slopes. Silver sage and sedges are found around Neal's Lake.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one livestock and wildlife reservoir in the Neal's Lake area, one way totaling one and one-half miles in the Neal's Lake area, and three miles of fenceline. A 110-acre crested wheat-grass seeding is located in the western corner. These developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The western portion of the subunit is only one-half mile wide or less in one part because of a 40-acre parcel of private land located between two boundary roads. The remaining portions are only two miles wide. The opportunity for solitude is extremely limited because Subunit J is narrow, the ridges are small and sparsely covered with juniper, and the eastern part is flat and open.

Recreation: Opportunities for several recreational activities exist and include hiking, backpacking, hunting and horseback riding; however, the lack of diverse terrain prevents the experience from being outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit provides habitat for wild horses that inhabit the entire area.

Subunit Number: 2-23K

Description

Size: 6,000 acres.

Location: 20 miles southeast of Princeton.

Boundaries: Roads on the east and west, state land and roads on the north, private land and roads on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of a high ridge in the east; broad flat expanses in the northwest, west, and central portions; and hills in the remainder of the unit. Mary's Lake, a dry meadow, is located near the western boundary. The vegetation is primarily low sagebrush, grasses, and some scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs, two ways, and two miles of fenceline. The developments are dispersed through the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude due to a lack of good vegetative screening coupled with the openness of the topography.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting (deer), and photography but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses roam this subunit and deer and antelope obtain summer range here.

Subunit Number: 2-23L

Description

Size: 21,000 acres of public land; 500 acres in private ownership.

Location: 45 miles southeast of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads bound the majority of the subunit except for a few sections on each boundary where private property is located.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is characterized by the Steens Mountain north rim which is a rugged, steep, east-facing slope. Stonehouse Creek and Squaw Creek are major drainages flowing east through rugged canyons. West of the rim in the southern end are rolling flats vegetated with big sage and grass with aspen growing along creeks and other moist sites. The northern end is characterized by large valleys or flats located between gently sloping ridges. Squaw Lake and several smaller ponds are located in the flat valleys in the central part of the subunit. The meadows are vegetated with crested wheatgrass, sedges, rushes and perennial forbs. The rock faces of the rims and canyons contain juniper and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: There are six livestock and wildlife reservoirs, four ways totaling two miles, two miles of fenceline, and one horsetrap. These developments are dispersed throughout the subunit and appear substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The rugged terrain characteristic of the Steens Mountain north rim would provide an outstanding opportunity for visitors to isolate themselves from others. The northwestern portion of the subunit consists of rolling hills and open valleys. However, the area is large enough that visitors would achieve an outstanding feeling of solitude. The size, relatively compact shape, and rugged terrain of the subunit provide an opportunity for one to achieve an outstanding sense of solitude.

Recreation: Because of the subunit's size and rugged terrain, outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, and photography are provided.

Supplemental Values: The entire subunit provides summer habitat for mule deer and antelope; and the area around Stonehouse Creek, particularly the steep rim, offers winter habitat for bighorn sheep. Wild horses inhabit the area.

Subunit Number: 2-23M

Description

Size: 12,590 acres of public land; 160 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 25 miles southeast of Princeton.

Boundaries: Road and private property on the north, south, east, and west. One and one-half mile of dead end road forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of the Steens Mountain north rim running northeast to southwest; an area of broad, flat expanses and rolling hills west of the rim; an area with steep slopes and numerous drainages on the east side below the rim. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush and grasses. The rim and some of the drainages have aspen, mountain mahogany, and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Four reservoirs, five springs, two fencelines totaling four miles, four ways totaling four miles in length, and 1,420 acres of seeding. These developments are dispersed through the subunit and are not substantially noticeable. A 1,440-acre seeding located in the south is a major imprint of man, as are the 950-acre and 480-acre seedings on the eastern boundary.

Solitude: The northwest portion of the subunit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the diversity in topography and vegetation. However, an area of 1,630 acres west of the southern seeding does not provide such an opportunity because it is isolated from the rest of the subunit by the seeding.

Recreation: The majority of the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and sightseeing because of the interesting and challenging terrain and the diverse vegetation. The 1,630-acre area west of the southern seeding does not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation because the seeding would discourage users from traveling from the main body of the unit to this small area.

Supplemental Values: Deer winter range occurs in the northwest portion of the subunit.

Subunit Number: 2-23HH

Description

Size: 6,070 acres.

Location: 20 miles south of Princeton.

Boundaries: Roads and public land in the east, south and west, private land in the north. A core of private land containing 680 acres penetrates the subunit from the southeast border.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling hills, ridges, and canyons land along Smyth, Frog, and Shepherd Creeks. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five and one-half miles of ways, a pipeline, five reservoirs, two miles of fenceline. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude, but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetative screening and the subunit's narrow finger-like configuration.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, upland game, antelope), hiking, backpacking, and trapping but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-23D'

Description

Size: 8,250 acres of public land, with 200 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Eight miles southeast of Princeton.

Boundaries: Roads and private land on all sides. One and one-half miles of dead-end road forms a portion of the boundary. A total of 2,880 acres of private land penetrates the subunit from the east and west boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of rolling ridges in the north, high ridges in the south, and several canyons. The elevation ranges from 4,200 feet to 6,226 feet on Anderson Mountain. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses, with some scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs, a borrow pit, six miles of ways, and an aerial seeding. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the fingered configuration of the boundary and the lack of good vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-23E′

Description

Size: 5,910 acres of public land with 960 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 15 miles southeast of Princeton.

Boundaries: Roads, private land, public land to the east, south, and west; a road and public land to the north. Fingers of private land containing 1,560 acres penetrate the unit from the southwestern and southeastern boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of high ridges, canyons, and some meadows. The elevation ranges from 4,400 to 6,322 feet. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush, juniper, and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Eight and one-half miles of ways, six reservoirs, 13 miles of fencelines. The developments are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the fingered shape of the subunit with narrow passages of public land.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), hiking, and backpacking but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decisions were to: (1) designate a 21,000-acre wilderness study area in Subunit L and a 8,570-acre wilderness study area in Subunit M because they appear generally natural and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation; (2) exclude 4,020 acres in Subunit M from further review: 2,390 acres in substantially noticeable seedings and 1,630 acres which lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation; (3) eliminate Subunits G, J, K, HH, D′, and E′ from further review because they lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation (Subunits G, J, K and D′ appear to be generally free of the worksof man; Subunits HH and E′ do not); and (4) eliminate all other subunits from further review because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixty-seven comments were received. Sixty-one indicated support of the proposed decisions to designate Subunits L and M as wilderness study areas, but 46 of them urged that the road between those two subunits be defined as a way. This would combine two subunits into a single wilderness study area. Four of those comments identified other

subunits which the writers thought should be combined with the wilderness study area by re-defining roads as ways. One comment opposed designation of both wilderness study areas because of potential impacts on other resources. The effects of a potential wilderness designation on other resources is a study phase consideration.

Five other comments specifically opposed the proposed designation of 2-23 L as a wilderness study area. Two of them argued that it lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The fourth was against wilderness study area status because of possible mineral values in the subunit. Mineral values are not considered during the inventory, but will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review.

One comment specifically opposed designating subunit 2-23 M as a wilderness study area. The comment stated that the subunit is not natural and that it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Designate two wilderness study areas: one of 21,000 acres (2-23L) and one of 8,090 acres (2-23M). Eliminate 4,500 acres from Subunit M because they lack wilderness characteristics. Eliminate all other subunits from further review.

Rationale: Subunit L and most of Subunit M offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. In addition, Subunit L and a majority of Subunit M appear to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. A 480-acre portion of Subunit M has been deleted because of a substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding which was identified after the proposed decision was issued. This combines with the 2,390 acres of seeding proposed for elimination in the proposed decision. In addition, a 1,630 acre parcel is deleted because it is separated from the main body of the subunit by an excluded seeding, is no longer contiguous with the rest of the subunit, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Additional field investigation confirmed the existence of the road which divides these two subunits. This road shows evidence of improvement and serves as an access route to a large amount of Federal and private land. This investigation also confirmed that the tracks which enter Subunit L from the northwest are not roads as stated by one comment.

Other roads identified during the intensive inventory which form subunit boundaries are also confirmed to be roads; and, therefore, additional subunits are not included in the wilderness study areas.

One comment recommends that Subunits G and J be designated as wilderness study areas because of the area's importance in providing habitat for wild horses as well as other wildlife species within the area. While this is an important feature of these areas, the availability of wildlife habitat is a supplemental value and not a wilderness characteristic which, in and of itself, qualifies an area as a wilderness study area. A wilderness study area must offer either outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. These subunits do not offer such opportunities.

Another comment recommending wilderness study area status for Subunits J, K, and D suggests that outstanding opportunities for solitude be based on the geographic location and the potential visitation of the area. Evaluations of opportunities for solitude are not based on an area's remoteness from human habitation or existing and potential levels of recreation use. The evaluations are based on the physical characteristics of the area and their effect on a user's ability to avoid the presence of other

users in the area. The physical characteristics evaluated are the area's size, shape, topography, and vegetation.

One comment stated that an error was made in the proposed decision concerning the quantity of private land in Subunit L. The proposed decision stated that there were 500 acres of private land within this subunit while the comment states that the subunit has 1,920 acres. The private land acreage reported in the proposed decision was in error. The subunit contains 760 acres of private land. A mapping error included a 1,800-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Burnt Flat in the northern portion of Subunit L. This portion of the subunit has been excluded and the associated acreage has been deleted.

Some comments state that Subunits L and M are not in a natural condition. The man-made developments in the wilderness study areas are the types of developments which the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, on the basis of congressional action on various pieces of wilderness legislation, indicates may be included in study areas if the facilities are substantially unnoticeable. These developments in the wilderness study areas are dispersed and do not appear to be substantially noticeable.

One comment addressed the visibility of man-made waterholes on private land within Subunit L. Because these developments are outside the subunit (not on Federal land) and are not major intrusions, no evaluation was made concerning their effect on the naturalness of the area.

Other comments state the wilderness study areas lack outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the presence of the county road along the eastern boundary and vehicle use on other boundary roads. These roads are outside the subunits and are not considered to be major impacts on the areas. They do not substantially influence an individual's opportunity for solitude.

Unit Number: 2-24

Unit Name: Fisher Flat

Inventory Unit 2-24 contains 18,290 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into seven subunits. Six of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 70 to 2,070 acres. None of the six subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-24H

Description

Size: 11,920 acres.

Location: Ten miles southwest of Princeton in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land in the northeast and northwest, roads and adjacent public land elsewhere. A dead-end road forms a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of flat topped plateaus and some canyons. The general elevation is 4,900 feet. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with small stands of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two reservoirs, one well, two waterholes, six miles of fenceline, a 320-acre seeding, six miles of ways, and a borrow pit at the end of the dead-end road. With the exception of the borrow pit, the remaining developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit provides some opportunity for solitude, but it is not outstanding due to the lack of good vegetation screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, upland game), rockhounding, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, and trapping, but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate Subunit H from further wilderness review because it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The imprint of man's work are substantially unnoticeable in the subunit. It was also proposed to eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum sizecriteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision, one recommends that Subunit H be designated a wilderness study area, and the third requests that the inventory decision be postponed.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although Subunit H, the only subunit to meet any of the minimum size criteria, appears to be in a generally natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

The comment which proposes designation as a wilderness study area suggests that outstanding opportunities for solitude should be evaluated on the basis of geographic location and potential user visitation. Evaluations of opportunities for solitude are based not on existing or potential use levels or remoteness from human habitation, but on the characteristics of each unit and the effect of those characteristics on the opportunities provided visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other users in the unit. The physical characteristics which are evaluated include the unit's size, shape, topography, and vegetation. In this unit, these factors do not afford visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The comment which proposes postponement of the decision states that the original recommendations made by the BLM failed to consider the rehabilitation of the area. The comment also suggests the area should receive consideration because of its location and importance with respect to the management of the region. The latter issue is not a wilderness characteristic and is not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review process. The comment concerning the rehabilitation of the area does not appear to be applicable in this situation since the intensive inventory determined that man's work was substantially unnoticeable.

Unit Number: 2-26

Unit Name: Diamond Craters

Inventory Unit 2-26 contains 15,045 acres. The difference in acreage from that in the report on the proposed decision is a result of recalculation. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the

subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 170 to 900 acres. None of the three subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-26C

Description

Size: 13,290 acres.

Location: 12 miles southwest of Princeton.

Boundaries: Private land and a road in the north and northeast, roads in the southeast and southwest, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land in the northwest.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of lowlands in the north and ridges throughout the remainder of the subunit. A marsh is found in the northwest corner. Diamond Craters is a recent lava flow and the unit contains a variety of volcanic features. The vegetation includes a marsh community, greasewood, big sagebrush, and juniper where there are sufficient cracks in the basalt surface. There are areas with distinct plant communities adapted to the unique volcanic substrate.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Five miles of fenceline, 14 miles of way, a dump, a borrow pit, and an area driven over by a bulldozer to crush the surface slab basalt for its removal. The developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers some opportunity for solitude in the rolling lowland areas where the surface basaltics add relief. However, most of the high ridge areas are devoid of surface basaltics and vegetation which limits the opportunity for solitude. The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting, backpacking, and rockhounding but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers an outstanding collection of recent volcanic features in a relatively small area and is of geological and educational interest.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate Subunit 2-26C from further wilderness review because it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. It was also proposed to eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision and one recommends that the unit be designated a wilderness study area. The third comment is ambiguous with regard to the proposed decision on the wilderness review of this unit. It indicates support of "... the proposed Diamond Craters Natural Area." Approximately 16,000 acres are currently under consideration for designation as the Diamond Craters Outstanding Natural Area. The process of designating natural areas is separate from the wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Reevaluation of this area confirms that the roads identified during the inventory do meet the road definition. Further, Subunit C, although it appears to be in a basically natural condition, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. This area does offer an outstanding array of lava formations which are of unquestionable geological, educational, and scientific interest. These interests are more appropriately classified as supplemental values than as outstanding recreational opportunities. In addition, it is felt that within this relatively small area the opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding due to the limited topographic or vegetative screening available to provide a visitor with a secluded spot.

No additional information was provided to support a change from the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 2-74

Unit Name: Alvord Desert

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory unit 2-74 contains approximately 296,100 acres within the Burns and Vale Districts. Part of the difference in acreage from that announced in the report on the proposed decision is a result of recalculation. The unit is divided by roads into 16 subunits. The unit contained 18 subunits at the time the proposed decision was issued. A subsequent re-evaluation of the unit revealed that the route which formed the boundaries between Subunits R and I is a way and that the route which formed the boundary between Subunits R and F meets the road definition for only a portion of its length. As a result, former Subunits R and I are now included in Subunit F. In addition, a mapping error involving the boundary between Subunit 2-74F and Unit 2-73 was discovered after the proposed decision was issued. This added 4,920 acres to 2-74 F and reduced the acreage of 2-73 by an equal amount. These boundary revisions are described more fully in the rationale for the final decision.

Seven of the subunits in 2-74 contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 640 acres to 3,300 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-74C

Description

Size: 25,180 acres of public land, 640 acres of state inholding in a one-section parcel.

Location: Two miles north and east of Fields.

Boundaries: Private land and a county road on the west, private land on the north, and on the east and the south by roads and adjacent public land. Three miles of dead end road form a portion of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: An area of fairly rough topography exists in the southeast corner, rising, at one point, about 400 feet above the desert floor. The rest of the subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain with much of the relief consisting of scattered, stabilized sand dunes rising 20 to 30 feet above the floor of the desert. The vegetation

includes a large variety of shrubs, with several grass and forb species mostly occurring in the dune areas. Most of the remaining land is covered by sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two wildlife guzzlers and hundreds of miles of ways and tracks. The latter are visible throughout much of the desert floor, but are concentrated in the western third of the subunit. The developments are dispersed and are substantially unnoticeable; however, traces of man's presence are evident.

Solitude: The only portion of the area where topographic screening is sufficient to allow a feeling of solitude is the southeast corner of the subunit, but this is not outstanding. The remainder of the unit's relatively flat topography and general lack of vegetative screening does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, and horseback riding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes which cover much of the subunit provide a great diversity of plant and animal life, and are therefore of environmental and educational interest. The area, because of its terrain, allows for broad vistas of the surrounding mountain ranges (Steens Mountain and the Pueblo Mountains). However, these features are not within the subunit and the scenic values within the area itself are not exceptional.

Subunit Number: 2-74E

Description

Size: 23,140 acres of public land, including 640 acres of state land in the process of being acquired; 640 acres of private inholding in three parcels.

Location: Ten miles north and east of Fields.

Boundaries: Private land and BLM road on the northwest, state land and a BLM road on the east, BLM roads on the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: A 400-foot high ridge rises abruptly from the desert floor along most of the western side of the subunit. From the summit of this ridge the unit slopes gently to the east and to the north. Most of the small drainages within the subunit drain generally to the north. The majority of the subunit contains gently rolling hills. The major vegetative type is sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains mining in the northwestern corner of the subunit, a well in the southwestern corner, a powerline running through the southern end of the subunit; and many miles of ways, mostly on the eastern side of the area. All of the developments are dispersed through out the subunit or located along the boundary, and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit has no vegetative screening and relatively little topographic diversity to provide sufficient screening to allow an outstanding feeling of solitude. Some small canyons cutting through the ridge on the west side would provide areas of solitude, but these are not outstanding. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and rock climbing; however, these opportunitie are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Opportunities for viewing wild horses and off-sight scenery.

Subunit Number: 2-74F

Description

Size: 161,840 acres of public land; inholdings include 3,840 acres of state land in six full sections scattered through the subunit, and 2,280 acres of private land in very small scattered parcels.

Location: 23 miles north of Fields and 10 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: Predominantly private land on the west, a road on the north and east, and two large parcels of private land and BLM roads on the south. Four dead end roads form portions of the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains a wide variety of physical features. On the west is the Alvord Desert, a large playa with shifting sand and stabilized sand dunes along its eastern edge. Cliffs to the east of the sand dunes rise 600 to 800 feet above the desert floor in the north central portion of the subunit, and from 400 to 500 feet in the south central portion. The cliffs are the western edge of a large, relatively flat plateau which slopes gently toward the east. In the east central portion of the subunit is a fairly large basin containing Coyote Lake (a playa) and associated sand dunes. East of Coyote Lake to the east boundary, the land is relatively flat, with gently rolling hills providing the only topographic diversity. Most of the subunit is covered with big sagebrush. However, much of the area covered by the sand dunes contains a wide variety of plant species including varieties of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. There is no vegetation on either playa.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: One reservoir near a road boundary, two wells, a horsetrap, an access road which will be removed and returned to a relatively natural condition, and many miles of vehicle ways, particularly along the northern and western border of the subunit. The Alvord Desert lakebed has been used as an off-road vehicle recreation area for some time. On the playa surface the tracks left by vehicles generally disappear with a heavy rain or spring flooding and are not substantially noticeable. The developments within the subunit are very widely dispersed and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Most of this subunit is quite flat with little or no vegetation (the vegetation that is present is seldom higher than two or four feet). Even in the relatively flat area one can see for miles. Very broad vistas are common. The best place for achieving a sense of solitude is on

the plateau just east of the desert floor. Because of its size, most of the subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Three small irregularly shaped "arms" project out from the subunit. Two are bounded on two sides by private land and by a road, while the other is bounded by private land on three sides. These arms do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the inability to avoid the sights, sounds, and presence of others. Collectively they contain 950 acres.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rockhounding and rock climbing. The rugged topography associated with the cliffs and plateau area would provide outstanding opportunities for some of the above activities. The three narrow arms projecting out of the subunit would not provide outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation activities because users would be confined to very small corridors.

Supplemental Values: The playa bed and cliff formation are interesting geological features, while the sand dune areas provide educational and environmental interest because of the diversity of plant and animal life associated with them.

Subunit Number: 2-74G

Description

Size: 17,480 acres

Location: 12 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded on all sides by roads and adjacent public land with the exception of three sections of state land scattered around the perimeter.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit has no dominant physical features. It consists of low rolling hills and small drainages. The vegetation is predominantly grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two wells and several small reservoirs (most of the latter occur along the western road boundary). All the developments occur along the edge of the subunit, and are substantially unnoticeable throughout the remainder of the area.

Solitude: Because of the general lack of topographic or vegetative screening this area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, back packing and horseback riding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-74K

Description

Size: 5,690 acres of public land; 160 acres of private inholding located in the center of the subunit.

Location: 20 miles northeast of Fields.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the north and south, private land on the east, and state land on the extreme western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: This area is predominantly flat with a few very gently rolling hills. The dominant vegetation is grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: No man-made developments were found during the intensive inventory of this subunit. Man's imprint within the area is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening, the area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Recreation activities which could occur in this area include hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-74L

Description

Size: 7,100 acres of public land; 120 acres of private inholdings in three 40 acre parcels on the west side of the subunit.

Location: 15 miles northeast of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land forms the eastern boundary with BLM roads and adjacent public land on the remaining sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is typically flat to gently rolling with several small drainages. A moderate sized butte with some rimrock exists in the southern portion of the subunit. The dominant vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable powerline (two poles) runs along the southern edge of the subunit affecting approximately 300 acres. Except for several miles of vehicle ways scattered through the subunit, there are no other developments within the area. The imprint of man's work north of the powerline is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The extent of the topographic screening provided by the butte and rims does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remaining portion of the subunit with its generally flat terrain and low vegetation offers no opportunities for outstanding solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-74M

Description

Size: 27,370 acres of public land; inholdings include 320 acres of state land and 320 acres of private land contained in one section in the northwest corner of the subunit.

Location: Ten miles east of Fields.

Boundaries: BLM roads and adjacent public land on the east and west, the powerline road on the north, and private land to the south

Physical Characteristics: This subunit features two ridgelines and three large buttes, including Flagstaff Butte on the south and Lookout Butte and Buckskin Mountain on the east. A ridgeline along the western side is the only relief in the desert floor between the boundary road and the major ridge which runs through the middle of the subunit. This ridge has three steps. The uppermost step flattens to a high plateau approximately 600 feet above the desert floor to the west. On top of the plateau the land is relatively flat with gently rolling hills providing the only topographic relief. The dominant vegetation in the area is grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wildernes study areas.

Naturalness: Approximately 960 acres seeded to crested wheatgrass on the plateau north of Lookout Butte with an additional 600 acres of land treatment (spraying), one reservoir, one spring development, a radio facility and access road (one mile) on top of Lookout Butte, a mine on the west side of Flagstaff Butte in the south, Flagstaff Seeding (approximately 640 acres noticeable because of the fenceline and vegetation difference), several wildlife guzzlers at the foot of the large ridge in the center of the area, a temporary road (two miles) to a horse trapping area on the middle step of the ridgeline, the powerline on the northern boundary, and many miles of vehicle ways. The cumulative impact of these major and minor intrusions make the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: The topographic diversity within the subunit would provide sufficient screening to achieve outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, sightseeing, rock climbing and rockhounding could all occur within this subunit. Because of the topography, the area provides a degree of challenge, risk and scenery which would make the opportunities for these activities outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Portions of this subunit may have cultural resource values. Cacti, a relatively uncommon type of plant in this area, were found within the subunit.

Subunit Number: 2-74N

Description

Size: 10,470 acres.

Location: 17 miles east of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: Private land on the north, BLM roads and adjacent public land on the east, west, and south, and a county road on the southeast. A portion of the boundary is formed by three miles of dead end road extending through the center of the unit to a radio facility.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant features are two large buttes, the largest of which is Red Mountain. The smaller butte lies to the north and east of Red Mountain. The remainder of the land slopes away from the buttes with gently rolling topography. The exception to this is on the southeast side where a rim runs from half way up the slope of the mountain

south to the edge of the unit. The dominant vegetation includes grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Several diatomite mine pits in the southern corner, approximately 160 acres of substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding on the western-most corner, and a radio facility on the smaller butte northeast of Red Mountain. With the exception of these intrusions man's imprint in the remainder of the subunit is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Throughout most of this subunit there is a general lack of topographic and vegetative screening which would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, the existence of the road intruding into the center of the subunit would lessen the chance of obtaining outstanding solitude. The road nearly cuts the subunit in half. Small portions of Red Mountain would offer some opportunities for solitude but they are not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and horseback riding, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-74P

Description

Size: 5,680 acres.

Location: 17 miles east of Fields.

Boundaries: A county road bounds the subunit on the east, with BLM roads and adjacent public lands forming the remainder of the boundaries. A portion of the boundary is formed by a dead end road to diatomite pits on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit lies between Buckskin Mountain on the west and Red Mountain on the east, and in general, serves as the lower drainage area for Buckskin Mountain. The land is gently rolling with the dominant native vegetation consisting of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A 2,460-acre fenced crested wheatgrass seeding dominates the subunit. In addition, approximately seven diatomite mine pits scar about 400 acres on the east side of the subunit, with one pit on the west side. Several miles of vehicle ways cross through the subunit. The imprint of man's work within this subunit is substantially noticeable throughout.

Solitude: The general lack of topographic and natural vegetative screening provides no opportunities for outstanding solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunity offered in this subunit would only include hiking and this opportunity is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decisions: The proposed decisions were to: (1) designate a 96,430-acre wilderness study area in Subunit F because it offers outstanding

opportunities for solitude and recreation and because most of it appears to be generally natural. Eliminate 950 acres in the subunit from further review because they lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. (2) Eliminate Subunits C, E, G, I, K, N, and R from further wilderness review because, although they are generally free of the works of man, they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. At the time of the proposed decision, it was believed that Subunit R was separated from Subunits F and I by roads. As noted at the beginning of the narrative for this unit, this was subsequently determined not to be the case. (3) Eliminate Subunit L because, while most of it appears to be free of the works of man, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. (4) Eliminate Subunit M from further review because it does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. (5) Eliminate Subunit P from further review because it does not appear to be generally natural and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixty-eight comments were received. Sixty-two supported the proposed decision to designate Subunit F as a wilderness study area; but 47 of them urged that the size of the wilderness study area be larger than proposed. Most of these recommended a wilderness study area of 170,000 acres, but they did not state which areas should be added to the proposed wilderness study area. One comment requested that Subunits G, I and R be wilderness study areas. One comment recommended two wilderness study areas be designated, one including Subunits A through L and R, the other made up of Subunits M, N, O, and P. One comment urged that Subunit C be a wilderness study area because it was felt that it contained outstanding opportunities for viewing natural history and geological features. This comment also recommended that Subunits E, G, I, K, L, and R be designated as wilderness study areas. One comment indicated agreement with the proposed decision to eliminate Subunits C, E, K, L, M, N, and P from further review. Three comments opposed the proposed designation of Subunit F as a wilderness study area, two asserting that it lacked naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation, and the third because of historical values and energy resource potential. One comment indicated concern about access to state-owned land within the proposed wilderness study area. The subunit's wilderness characteristics have been reconsidered, but energy potential and access are study phase issues which are not considered in making the inventory decision.

Final Decision: Designate a 160,890-acre wilderness study area in Subunit F. Include former Subunits I and R in Subunit F. Exclude 950 acres from the subunit because they lack wilderness characteristics. Eliminate all other subunits from further review.

Rationale: The 161,840-acre Subunit 2-74F appears to be in a relatively natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The 950 acres are excluded because they are included within three narrow arms which project from the main body of the subunit and lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The other subunits are eliminated from further review for the reasons stated in the proposed decisions.

Additional field investigation confirms the existence of the road which created Subunit G. However, the roads which created Subunits R and I were determined to be ways. The road dividing Subunit I from the remainder of the area is, in fact, a way across its entire length, while the road dividing Subunit R ends at the north end of Coyote Lake and is a way around the east side of the lake. As a result, Subunit F is expanded to include former Subunits R and I (42,060 acres and 15,720 acres). In addition, a mapping error involving the boundary between units 2-73 and 2-74 has resulted in the addition of 4,920 acres to 2-74F and deletes the above acreage from 2-73.

The re-assessment of the other subunits based on the comment that Subunits A through L and R be combined and recommended as a wilderness study area, and that Subunits M, N, O, and P also receive the same designation, revealed that the roads which create these subunits meet the road definition and that these subunits do not possess wilderness characteristics. The comments received requesting this redesignation did not provide any additional information which would support a change.

With respect to the comment which recommends subunit C as a wilderness study area because of natural history and geological features, the presence of these features is more appropriately considered a supplemental value within this area. Although natural history and geological features exist within this subunit, the opportunities for viewing them are not outstanding as these features are relatively common throughout this region from the northern end of the Alvord Desert into Nevada.

A comment recommending wilderness study area status for Subunits E, G, I, K, L, and R suggests that opportunities for solitude in these subunits be evaluated on the basis of potential visitation and geographic location. Evaluations of opportunities for solitude are based not on existing or potential use levels or on a unit's distance from human habitation, but on the characteristics of the unit itself and the effect of those characteristics on the opportunities provided visitors to avoid the presence of other users. Characteristics evaluated include the unit's size, shape, topography and vegetation. These factors do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude in these subunits.

Subunit F was re-evaluated because of the comments which state that the area lacks naturalness. The re-evaluation confirmed the fact that because of the subunit's large size and the few developments which occur within the area's boundaries, the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

In response to the comment opposing the designation of Subunit F on the basis of historical values, it is felt that the historical value of the area is a supplemental value possessed by the wilderness study area. The resolution of possible conflicts with historical values will be considered during the study phase.

Unit Number: 2-79

Unit Name: Pueblo Slough

Inventory Unit 2-79 contains 22,755 acres of public land. The difference in the acreage from that in the report on the proposed decision is a result of recalculation. It is divided by roads and non-public lands into

13 subunits. Twelve of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 130 to 3,500 acres. None of the 12 subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 2-79F

Description

Size: 6,280 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Fields.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the north, south, and parts of the west and east; private land on the west and east; and a county road on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is a flat desert floor with an elevation of 4,200 feet. The vegetation includes big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, salt desert shrub species, and riparian plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit does not meet the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Eight miles of fence, several ways, three wells, a powerline, and a fenced crested wheatgrass seeding of 1,470 acres. The seeding is very noticeable. In the remainder of the subunit, the works of man are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Due to the flat topography, low vegetative cover, and small size of the subunit the user does not have an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers an opportunity for hiking but the opportunity is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate Subunit F from further wilderness review because the portion not included in the substantially noticeable seeding does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and to eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria. The portion not included in the seeding contains less than 5,000 acres.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received; it concurs with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed decision for Subunit F, the only subunit to meet any of the minimum size criteria, was based on the presence of a substantially noticeable seeding which, if deleted, would reduce the subunit to less than 5,000 acres. In addition, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. No comments were received which contained any information to support a change in this decision.

Unit Number: 2-81

Unit Name: Pueblo Mountains

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-81 contains 83,490 acres of public land in Oregon. The difference in the Oregon acreage from that

announced in the report on the proposed decision is a result of recalculation. The unit is contiguous with Inventory Unit NV-020-642 in the Winnemucca District, Nevada, which contains 10,240 acres of public land. In total, the 93,730-acre unit is divided by roads into 14 subunits. Thirteen of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and range in size from 30 acres to 3,990 acres. None of the 13 smaller subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

On the basis of public comments and field studies conducted after the proposed decision was released, subunit boundaries have been revised in three places.

(1) A road was identified in the southwest corner of Subunit L. It extends east from the southwest corner along the state line for about two miles, swings into Oregon for about one-half mile, then turns south and joins the road which forms the southern unit boundary. It separates 3,990 acres (3,960 acres in Nevada and 30 acres in Oregon) from the rest of Subunit L. This new subunit is designated NV-020-642B. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria, is not described further in this narrative, and is eliminated from further wilderness review.

(2) Boundaries between Subunits L and K and between Subunits L and N were examined and determined to not meet the road definition. Therefore, former Subunits K and N are now included in Subunit L.

The Subunit L described in the following narrative reflects the deletion of new Subunit NV-020-642B and the addition of former Subunits K and N.

Subunit Number: 2-81L

Description

Size: This subunit contains 77,400 acres of public land (71,120 acres in Oregon and 6,280 acres in Nevada). Inholdings include 640 acres of private land in two parcels, and 1,920 acres of state land in three 640-acre parcels.

Location: Four miles southwest of Fields in Harney County.

Boundaries: BLM roads, state and private lands on the north and west; BLM roads, county roads, and private land on the east, BLM roads on the south. Portions of the boundary are formed by 14.5 miles of dead end roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit is varied. It contains the high peaks of the Pueblo Mountains, some basins between peaks, steep slopes, large drainages and canyons, and foothills. Elevations range from 4,500 feet to over 9,000 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush and grass in the lower foothills, aspen and mountain mahogany in the higher elevations where there is sufficient water, and a variety of annual and perennial plants and aspen in the basins where there are numerous springs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Inactive, abandoned mines and associated tailings, ways, bladed scars, and habitations are located in portions of the subunit and are substantially noticeable intrusions. The majority of the land affected by these disturbances is in the southeastern portion of the subunit.

The presence of other intrusions within the southeastern corner--including fences, ways, and spring developments--would make it difficult for a visitor to pass through this area without noticing the imprints of man. A powerline extends south from the Colony Ranch just inside the southeastern border but is substantially unnoticeable.

Mining and grazing developments and other imprints of man are substantially noticeable in approximately 9,370 acres in the subunit. Of this total, 9,035 acres are located in the far southeastern corner (3,355 acres in Oregon and 5,680 acres in Nevada). The other 335 acres of land containing substantially noticeable developments are located in Oregon; most of them are in the vicinity of Catlow Creek along the northeast boundary.

The remainder of the subunit appears generally free of the imprint of man's work. The remaining developments, including 28 miles of vehicle ways and trails, six reservoirs, evidence of past mining activities, and many miles of fences are sufficiently screened and dispersed throughout the subunit and do not appear to be substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of its rugged topography, large size, and large number of secluded spots, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for recreation include hunting, rockhounding, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and sightseeing. Because of the rugged terrain, the many natural and recreational attractions, and the variety of possible activities, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: Historical interest associated with past mining activities, geological features of interest associated with the physical formation of the mountains and mineral exploration.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to (1) designate a 55,380-acre wilderness study area in subunit L; (50,460 acres in Oregon and 4,920 acres in Nevada); (2) eliminate 12,060 acres in Subunit L associated with past mining efforts and other intrusions because the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable; (3) eliminate Subunit K because its narrow configuration would limit opportunities for solitude and recreation; and (4) eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comment: Seventy-four comments were received. Fifty-nine indicated support of the proposed decision to designate a portion of subunit L as a wilderness study area; but 44 urged that the size of the wilderness study area be larger. In most cases the comments argued that unspecified roads be redefined as ways and that a wilderness study area of 60,000 or 75,000 acres be formed. Some of the comments identified a route paralleling Van Horn Creek as being inappropriately defined as a road. Six comments, one of which represents the point of view of seven people, disagreed with the proposed decision to designate any part of the unit as a wilderness study area, arguing that Subunit L lacks wilderness characteristics. Six additional comments, one representing another group of seven people, provided information about roads, fences and other intrusions within the subunit. One comment expressed the opinion that Subunit L should be dropped from further wilderness review, then stated that the southeast portion should be excluded. The proposed decision was that the southeast

portion of Subunit L be eliminated from further review. One comment opposed wilderness study area status because of the belief that wildlife management options would be restricted; and one comment mentioned concern about access to state-owned land within the wilderness study area. The last two issues will be considered during the study phase.

Final Decision: Designate a 68,030-acre wilderness study area in Subunit L (67,430 acres in Oregon and 600 acres in Nevada). Eliminate 9,370 acres (3,690 acres in Oregon and 5,680 acres in Nevada) within this subunit because they do not possess wilderness characteristics. Eliminate all other subunits from further review.

Rationale: Based on public comment and additional information, Subunit L has been expanded to include Subunits K and N. This expansion brings the total acreage for Subunit L to 77,400 acres (including 6,280 acres in Nevada). Of the total 77,400 acres, 9,370 acres have been deleted because they no longer appear to be in a natural condition (primarily due to past mining activities). The wilderness study area appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. This portion of the subunit also offers the visitor outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Many comments stated that the boundary dividing Subunit L from K is not a road. Additional field investigations were carried out to check on the matter. The final decision is that this track is a way and that Subunit K should be made a part of Subunit L and included in the wilderness study area.

Field investigation has also determined that the boundary between Subunits N and L is a way and that Subunit N, originally deleted because it did not meet the minimum size criteria, should be made a part of Subunit L and included in the wilderness study area.

Comments concerning a portion of Subunit L which drops into Nevada stated that a road exists along the state line which cuts off a portion of the subunit on the Nevada side. This has been confirmed to be a road and eliminates a 3,990-acre area from the original Subunit L. This new subunit has been renumbered as NV-020-642B. It includes 30 acres in Oregon. The new subunit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

The field investigations made to determine the road designations revealed that acreage which was previously deleted due to mining activities was exaggerated. Although mining intrusions do exist within the area, many of these are quite localized and do not encompass the acreage originally excluded from further review. Most of these areas are located within the original Subunit K and are now included in the acreage figure for Subunit L above.

Subunit K was proposed for elimination from further review because it was considered to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The principal reason for this conclusion was the subunit's narrow configuration. The area is now a part of the much larger Subunit L and as such would contribute to the outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation offered by the entire wilderness study area.

Comments concerning the road along Van Horn Creek were also confirmed through a field check of the area. This road is actually about one half mile long from the point where it intersects the county highway to its end at the mouth of Van Horn Creek. It does not extend as far as was shown on the proposed decisions map.

Some comments stated that the original Subunit L is not in a natural condition and does not possess wilderness characteristics. The area does contain man-made developments, but most of them are old and overgrown, dispersed throughout the area, or screened by the rugged topography. They do not appear to be substantially noticeable imprints of man's work. Subunit L, because of its rugged and diverse terrain, large size, natural attractions, and the quality and diversity of available recreational activities offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-82

Unit Name: Rincon

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-82 contains approximately 148,730 acres of BLM land. The acreage is less than that reported in the report on the proposed decision because of an error in the initial acreage calculation. Roads divide the unit into eight subunits. The report on the proposed decision stated the unit contained ten subunits. When the area was re-examined to check public comments received, it was determined that portions of the boundaries between Subunit H and former Subunits I and J are not roads. Those former subunits are now included in Subunit H. Subunit H contains 103,850 acres. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-82C

Description

Size: 11,100 acres of public land; 440 acres of private and 320 acres of state inholdings located in five parcels.

Location: Two miles west of Fields.

Boundaries: Roads bound the subunit except for small sections bounded by private land in the north, southeast and west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of the extreme northern portion of the Pueblo Mountains with generally east-facing slopes. The eastern slope is characterized by layers of exposed, lichen covered rock and several intermittent streams. The western portion of the subunit consists of flat to rolling slopes which gradually rise to the ridgeline. The slopes on the eastern side gradually give way to rolling flatlands. Big sage and grass are the main types of vegetation found in the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Two and three-quarters miles of fenceline are the only man-made development in the subunit. The subunit appears to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The location of non-public parcels of land severely limits the opportunity for one to achieve solitude. Two parcels of non-public land totaling 680 acres are situated west of the ridgeline, with one corner of a 640-acre parcel located on the ridge itself. The ridge lies in the center of the area, within one half mile of the western boundary, and one

mile from the northern boundary. The northern and northeastern boundaries lies between one-half and one and one-half miles from the ridgetop, preventing an opportunity for outstanding solitude. The lack of vegetative screening limits the opportunity for seclusion when considered with the configuration.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and hunting but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-82D

Description

Size: 10,990 acres of public land; 480 acres of state inholding.

Location: Directly west of Fields.

Boundaries: Roads bound the subunit on the west, southwest and southeast and private land forms part of the southern and northwest boundaries. Long Hollow County road, state land and a BLM road form the northern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The elevation ranges from 4,200 feet in the eastern lowlands to a summit of 6,500 feet in the central portion of the subunit. Rolling hills and gentle slopes comprise the eastern half and a high plateau with a steep east slope dominates the western half. Several intermittent streams flow east from the plateau. Vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A double pole, 115-KV powerline passes through one section in the northern end. Six ways totaling 13 1/2 miles, eight miles of fenceline, four stock and wildlife reservoirs, and a 1,580-acre crested wheatgrass seeding are located within the subunit. The powerline and seeding are substantially noticeable. However, even after eliminating them from the original subunit, the works of man are still substantially noticeable due to the number and placement of ways and fences. One of these developments occurs in almost every section, making it difficult to avoid them. The subunit contains works of man that are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The diverse topography would allow the visitor to achieve a sense of solitude, but would not be outstanding due to the openness of the area and lack of vegetation for screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-82G

Description

Size: 18,800 acres of contiguous BLM land; inholdings include a 320 acre parcel of private land and a 640 acre parcel of state land.

Location: Eight miles west of Fields.

Boundaries: Roads with the exception of state parcels on the west, southeast and northeast. A few private parcels form boundaries on the south and east.

Physical Characteristics: The northern three miles of the subunit are only one and one-half miles wide and includes the northern-most ridge of the Pueblo Mountains. The central area is characterized by several small buttes which gradually level out to a flat, low plateau which is typical of the southern end. The vegetation includes big sage, grass and one lone juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two miles of fence, five stock and wildlife reservoirs and two miles of ways. Approximately 3,300 acres of the Rincon Seeding are located in the southeastern corner. The seeding is an obvious intrusion. The other developments are dispersed through the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The ridge in the north would screen visitors on one side from those on the other, but it only extends one-fifth of the subunit length and is only one to one and one-half miles wide. The entire subunit lacks vegetative screening and the southern half is open and generally flat, providing little opportunity for visitors to achieve a feeling of solitude. Because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening in the entire subunit and the narrow width of the northern half, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking and horseback riding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Subunit Number: 2-82H

Description

Size: 103,850 acres of contiguous BLM land; inholdings include one 360-acre parcel of private land and five parcels of state land totaling 3,840 acres.

Location: 11 miles west of Fields.

Boundaries: Long Hollow county road and private land on the north; a road identified by public comment, private land, state land, four dead-end roads and the Oregon end-Domingo pass road form the eastern boundary; Hawk Valley-Lone Mountain road and the Oregon End Table road comprise the southern boundary and Funnel Canyon road and one section of state land form the western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is diverse. The elevation ranges from 4,000 feet in the northwest corner to a high point of nearly 6,000 feet in the Lone Mountain area in the southern portion. Catlow Rim extends south almost 15 miles and reaches an elevation of 6,000 feet at Square Mountain in the northwestern corner of the subunit. The rim has several deep canyons and is characterized by rugged rock cliffs that face west. A flat open valley lies between Catlow Rim and the western boundary road, with several areas of dry lake beds. A large plateau with some rolling

hills lies between the rim and the eastern boundary road. The southern area consists of Lone Mountain, the highest point in the subunit with an elevation of 6,520 feet. The mountain contains pinnacles and columns of rhyodacitic rock which extend approximately four to five miles across the southwestern corner of the subunit. East of Lone Mountain the area is comprised of a wide, nearly flat valley which rises steeply to Oregon End Table on the eastern side. Oregon End Table extends five miles north to south and three miles east to west at the widest point. This area is extremely rocky and is characterized by rimrock around the plateau's edge. A large stand of juniper is located at Juniper Springs in the southeast corner. The rest of the subunit is vegetated with big sage, rabbitbrush, grass and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Nine miles of fences, 41 miles of ways, 18 stock and wildlife reservoirs, five guzzlers, one well, and three miles of pipeline are located within the subunit. In addition, approximately 4,000 acres of a crested wheatgrass seeding are located in the far southwestern corner. However, only 3,055 acres are substantially noticeable. Along the eastern boundary, approximately 2,200 acres of the Rincon crested wheatgrass seeding comprise an obvious intrusion. In total, 5,255 acres of seeding in the subunit are substantially noticeable. The works of man are also substantially noticeable in 1,000 acres in the far southeastern corner of the subunit. The area includes the Oregon End Well and powerline and a way leading up to the Oregon End Table. A gravel pit is located in the northwestern corner in section five and is substantially noticeable in an area of about 200 acres. In total, approximately 6,455 acres in the subunit contain substantially noticeable works of man. Because of the large size of the subunit and the dispersement of the developments, the works of man appear to be substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Except for the area around Juniper Springs the subunit lacks vegetative screening. However, due to the diverse topography and large size of the area, opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others are outstanding.

Recreation: The size of the area and the diverse topography create a challenge for the visitor. The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, and sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: The Lone Mountain area is an interesting geologic area. The unit contains cultural resources and crucial antelope range.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to (1) designate a 39,380-acre wilderness study area in Subunit H and eliminate from further review 3,100 acres of seeding and 270 acres affected by a gravel pit because they contained substantially noticeable works of man; (2) designate a 51,515-acre wilderness study area in Subunit I and eliminate from further review 2,060 acres of seeding and 1,024 acres around Oregon End Well because the works of man are substantially noticeable; (3) eliminate from further review Subunits C, D, G, and J because they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation (Subunit D also contains substantially noticeable works of man); and (4) eliminate the other subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifty-eight comments were received. Fifty-two indicated support for the proposed decisions to designate portions of Subunits H and I as wilderness study areas; but 40 of them urged that the proposed wilderness study areas be combined with each other and other subunits to form a single, larger wilderness study area. Most of these recommended a wilderness study area of 96,000 acres to be formed by redefining several roads as ways so that Subunits H, I and J would be combined into one wilderness study area. Subunits C, D, and G were also mentioned in several of the comments as having wilderness characteristics. Two comments, one which represents seven people, disagreed with the proposed decisions to designate any parts of the unit as wilderness study areas, stating that the entire unit lacks wilderness characteristics. One comment disagreed with the proposed wilderness study area in Subunit H, and one disagreed with the proposed wilderness study area in Subunit I. One comment opposed wilderness study area status because of the belief that wildlife management options would be restricted and one mentioned concern about access to state-owned land within the wilderness study area. These last two issues will be considered during the study phase.

Final Decision: Designate a 97,395-acre wilderness study area in Subunit H. Eliminate 6,455 acres within this subunit because they do not possess wilderness characteristics. Eliminate all other subunits from further review.

Rationale: Subunit H contains 103,850 acres of public land. This area appears to be in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable (6,455 acres are deleted because they do contain substantially noticeable imprints of man). The subunit has diverse topography, is large and provides opportunities for a visitor to screen himself from the presence of others. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, the large size, the presence of interesting and unusual natural features, and the potential for a variety of recreation activities contribute to an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Additional field investigations were conducted to determine the status of the boundaries between Subunits H, I, and J. During this investigation it was determined that a dead-end road does exist from McDade Forty Waterhole to Long Hollow Spring. However, the track from Long Hollow Spring southwest to the Hawk Valley road, and the track from Long Hollow Spring north to the boundary of Subunits H and G, are determined to be ways. The result is that Subunits H, I, and J are combined to form the larger Subunit H (103,850 acres).

The comments proposing wilderness study area status for Subunits C, D, and G did not provide any additional information that would support a change from the proposed decision. Re-evaluation of the subunits confirms that these subunits lack wilderness characteristics (Subunit D because it does not appear to be in a natural condition, and all three subunits because they lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation). None of these subunits offer a sufficient amount of topographic or vegetative screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, nor do they possess significant natural or recreational attractions which would provide an outstanding opportunity for any primitive recreational activities.

Several comments disagree with the proposed decision and basically state that the proposed wilderness study areas are not in a natural condition. The inventory of these areas did identify man-made developments within the subunits. However, the amount and types of developments located in the subunit are permissible within wilderness study areas. The quantity and dispersement of these developments in relation to the size of the area and screening provided by the surrounding terrain makes the presence of these developments substantially unnoticeable. The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition. This also holds true for the enlarged Subunit H as well as for the smaller Subunit H described in the report on the proposed decision.

VALE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 3-36

Unit Name: Roger's Place

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,020 acres. There is one private inholding of 160 acres.

Location: The unit is six miles southeast of Riverside.

Boundaries: There is private land on the west and south. The rest is bounded by BLM and county roads.

Physical Characteristics: Most of the unit is a large mesa sloping to the north, west, and south. There are rolling hills, breaks, and rim rock in the remainder of the unit. The vegetation is high desert shrub community with native grasses, scattered junipers, and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs along the north boundary, five miles of ways, and a fence are substantially unnoticeable in the unit. A substantially noticeable canal cuts across the southwest corner. Except for the southern portion, the unit appears generally natural.

Solitude: The unit offers only limited locations for isolation due to its general narrowness and lack of vegetative screening. The unit is only three miles wide and five miles long, with a one mile wide neck in the center. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities to hunt, backpack, hike, horseback ride, photograph and sightsee in the unit, but these opportunities cannot be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental value is the possibility of archeological resources along the Dry Creek drainage.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received. It requests that the inventory decision be postponed.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The intensive inventory decision on this unit has not been postponed. The public was informed of the accelerated schedule for this and other units in a July 1979 wilderness bulletin and in the report announcing the final decisions of the initial inventory in August 1979. The bulletin and the report were sent to over 2,000 individuals, organizations and agencies and were accompanied by news releases. In the bulletin and news release the public was encouraged to visit the units during the summer as they might be inaccessible during the fall. Considering this advance notice, plus the availability of 90 days for public review of the proposed decision, it was decided to announce the final decision at this time. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation. There were no comments received that disagreed with this rationale.

Unit Number: 3-151

Unit Name: Whitehorse Butte

Subunits: Roads divide 3-151 into two subunits: Subunit B contains 560 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Subunit Number: 3-151A

Description

Size: The unit contains 8,560 acres, which includes 440 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. There is no private land in the unit.

Location: Three miles south of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is private property. The other boundaries are a combination of private property and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is composed of Whitehorse Butte, its northern slope and Little Whitehorse Canyon to the east. Shallow drainages flow off the butte. The vegetation is desert sage and grasses, with small willows in the canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The only intrusions are eight miles of ways and a small portion of a seeding in the southeast corner. This project is no longer noticeable as a seeding.

Solitude: The unit does not offer a great number of isolated locations due to the general slope of the area and lack of vegetative screening. The majority of the unit slopes off Whitehorse Butte, with no topographic screening.

Recreation: One can backpack, hike, hunt, horseback ride, and enjoy photography and sightseeing. Sightseeing and hiking would be the most popular. Views from here include the Alvord, Steens, Trout Creeks, Pueblos, Antelope and Whitehorse Canyons, Flagstaff Butte and Red Mountain. However, the only major attraction in the unit is Whitehorse Butte. None of the activities would be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Scenic views from Whitehorse Butte are excellent. Historical values are unknown. Geologic values are present; the area includes a hot spring and volcanic flows.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate the unit from further review. The other four suggest that Subunit A be designated a wilderness study area. Two comments state that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation and another wants it to be combined with Subunit 156A to form a single larger wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation. Subunit B does not meet minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Comments stated that Subunit A offers outstanding views and geological sightseeing. The views are of features outside the subunit. The subunits internal scenery is not outstanding. The geological sightseeing opportunity is also not outstanding because the features (the Butte, Little Whitehorse Canyon, and the remainder of the subunit) are relatively common. The features, their extent and their form are only of moderate interest. The area displays little color or variety.

A comment stated the subunit offers outstanding solitude because of its remoteness from civilization. This is not the concept of solitude used in the inventory. The evaluation of the opportunities for solitude assesses the likelihood of avoiding the sights and sounds of other visitors in the unit.

A comment requested the combination of subunit 151A with subunit 156A, stating the road south of Sweeney Ranch was a way. Further field checking confirmed that this route meets the road definition. It was constructed, is passable, and recieves use. Once the road enters private property the crossing of Whitehorse Creek is difficult since the bridge no longer exists. However, the portion on public land is still passable and used for access to Whitehorse Creek, forming a road boundary to the private property.

Unit Number: 3-154

Unit Name: Sand Dunes

Description

Size: The unit contains 6,680 acres, which includes 320 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. There is no private property in the unit.

Location: Eight miles north of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: West and north boundaries are at the base of tall rims which slope off towards the east and south. At the bottom of the eastern slope the area is primarily sand dunes. The dunes are 5 to 15 feet tall. One drainage flows out to the south end. There is water in the drainage, and the vegetation is relatively lush compared to the sagebrush community in the rest of the unit. On the dunes there is some sage, but the ground cover is typical of a sandy environment.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are no developments in the unit. It appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Opportunity for solitude is limited due to the size of the area and the lack of vegetative screening. The small sand dunes provide limited topographic screening.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for sightseeing and photography of a sand dune environment and wildlife. Hiking and backpacking opportunities are limited. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area offers opportunities for study of ancient lakeshore geomorphology. This area is geologically interesting, but it does not readily lend itself to geologic interpretation. The dunes are

small remnants that are largely stabilized by vegetation. Since there is water near the unit, wildlife--including wild horses--inhabit the area. The area may have archaeological sites.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two suggest that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation and should be designated a wilderness study area. Two requested that the unit be combined with Subunit 2-74F. One comment urges that the unit be inventoried; this is the step which was just completed.

Final Decison: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not offer outstanding opporunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation.

Comments stated that the unit offers outstanding recreational opportunities for geological, zoological, and botanical sightseeing. The geological sightseeing opportunity is not outstanding because the geological features (volcanic rim and table and a small sand dune area) are not unique. The extent of the features is small. The sand dunes are stabilized sandy hummocks, five to fifteen feet high, covering only one-third of the unit. The dunes' form and mass are not dramatic or inspiring, but in fact are relatively common. The features in the unit are only a fair representation of this type of geology. The colors are dull and drab with very little contrast. The unit does not offer outstanding geological sightseeing.

The zoological sightseeing opporunity is not outstanding because the animals found in this unit are commonly found elsewhere. The habitat allows only a moderate density, and the interest aroused by the animals is not unusual. Due to the lack of any significant screening the animals are relatively easy to observe. Some of the more common animals in the unit include wild horses, coyotes, rabbits, lizards, various rodents and birds. It is possible, but less likely, that antelope, deer and fox also live in the unit. Overall, zoological sightseeng is not outstanding in this unit.

The botanical sightseeing opportunity is not outstanding because the plants found in this unit are common. They include a good density of sagebrush, saltbrush, greasewood and bunchgrass. These plants display little color and arouse little interest or curiosity.

Another comment stated the opporunity to experience a sand dune environment was outstanding in this unit. The dunes are only five to fifteen feet hummocks stabilized by vegetation and only cover an area of approximately one mile by two miles. They represent a climax sand dune ecosystem which is barely recognizable as sand dunes. For these reasons the experience is not considered outstanding.

A comment stated there is an outstanding opportunity for solitude based upon topographical screening. The boundary roads on the north and west are at the base of the rim. Above the rim covering about two-thirds of the unit is a flat table offering little opportunity for concealment. The sand hills offer a limited opportunity for isolation, with a few secluded locations behind the small hummocks. However, this opportunity is not outstanding.

It was also requested in two comments that the unit be combined with unit 2-74F. However, the boundary road meets the road definition.

Unit Number: 3-156

Unit Name: Fifteenmile

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-156 contains 60,840 acres. It is divided by roads into three subunits. Two of the subunits contain 580 and 160 acres respectively, and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Subunit Number: 3-156A

Description

Size: The unit contains 60,100 acres of public land which includes 3,200 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. Three 40-acre parcels of private property are located within the unit.

Location: Three miles southwest of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north, south and east by BLM roads, and by private property and BLM roads on the west. Two interior roads totaling seven miles dead-end at Jug Spring Reservoir and Doolittle Cow Camp.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the northern slope of the Trout Creek Mountains. Flat to rolling plateaus slope gently to the north and are incised by several major drainages and their tributaries (Whitehorse, Fifteenmile and Doolittle Creeks). Vegetation is predominately a sagebrush community with numerous meadows, pockets of aspen trees and mountain mahogany. Riparian vegetation is present along the streams.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately 11,600 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding in the northwest portion of the unit do not appear to be natural. (The proposed decision report incorrectly stated the seeding contained 11,700 acres.) The crested wheatgrass rows are obvious. Approximately 30 miles of fence, ten reservoirs, ten developed springs, 34 miles of ways and three brush controls totaling 1,200 acres are scattered throughout the unit and are all individually and collectively substantially unnoticeable. They are all either small, screened, blend in, are located in depressions, or are absorbed by the large size of the area.

Solitude: The natural portion of the unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its relatively large size (48,000 acres), the distance from the perimeter to the core of the area (approximately five miles), the diverse relief with several deep winding canyons providing abundant topographic screening, and scattered pockets of dense vegetation (aspen and mountain mahogany) providing cover.

Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping and deer hunting are present. Water is abundant (springs and streams), scenic vistas are numerous, wildlife is plentiful and the canyons are interesting and challanging.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains sagegrouse, beaver, antelope, deer, fish, riparian habitat, scenic vistas, and deep canyons.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to designate 48,400 acres as a wilderness study area, and to eliminate 11,700 acres which lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Forty-nine comments were received. Forty-seven indicated support of the proposed decision to designate a portion of the unit as a wilderness study area. Four of those recommended a larger wilderness study area, two mentioning that the portion of Subunit A which was proposed for elimination should be included in the wilderness study area. Three comments opposed designation of the wilderness study area, two arguing that the area lacks wilderness characteristics while the third was opposed because of the mineral potential in the area. One comment expressed concern about access to and management of state-owned land within a wilderness study area. Mineral potential, access and management are all Study Phase considerations. Another comment stated that it appeared that the area between the Trout Creek Mountains and Nevada should have been included in an inventory unit and inventoried. The two blocks of land in that area that contain more than 5,000 acres of public land are included in Inventory Units 3-155 and 3-204. Other blocks of public land in that area contain less than 5,000 acres. All of the public lands in the area were eliminated from further wilderness review during the initial inventory. The basis for their elimination is explained in the April and October 1979 reports on the initial inventory.

Final Decision: Designate 48,500 acres in Subunit A as a wilderness study area; eliminate 11,600 acres, which lack wilderness character, from further wilderness review. (Approximately 100 fewer acres are eliminated in A than was originally proposed because the seeding does not extend into Whitehorse Canyon as was thought at the time of the proposed decision.) Eliminate Subunits B and C from further review because they do not meet the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: The wilderness study area appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area lacking wilderness characteristics includes an 11,600-acre seeding where the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. The crested wheatgrass seeding is substantially noticeable due to obvious drill rows resulting in straight lines of grass, noticeable color contrast with the adjacent natural vegetation, and unnatural straight lines forming the boundary. The seeding does not go over the rim into Whitehorse Canyon. Since the canyon appears to be generally natural and offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, it is included in the wilderness study area. Fish Creek drainage, on the other hand does not have a pronounced rim and was seeded. It does not appear to be generally natural. The remainder of the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because they are either small, screened, blend into the natural landscape, or are scattered over the subunit and are absorbed by the large size of the area.

The developments have no impact upon solitude since solitude is defined as the state of being alone or remote from other people. An area may lack good streams and timber but may still offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Features such as Whitehorse Canyon, Fifteen Mile Canyon, abundant wildlife and water, pockets of aspen, and excellent scenery are reasons why the subunit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

One comment pointed out that state lands in the unit were not shown on the map. They were not shown because they are being acquired by BLM and are inventoried as part of the unit.

Unit Number: 3-199

Unit Name: Willow Butte

The proposed decision was that three subunits be eliminated from further wilderness review because they contain less than 5,000 acres (4,490, 1,280, and 120 acres) and do not meet the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas; and that Subunit 3-199A, with 12,360 acres, be eliminated from further review because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

After the proposed decision, it was learned that the boundary between Subunit 3-199A and Unit 3-152 is a road only between the west boundary and Stewart Reservoir Number Two. A way extends from the reservoir to the east boundary. This means that Subunit 3-199A is, in fact, a part of Unit 3-152 and should be inventoried as a part of the larger unit. The proposed decision for Unit 3-152, including former Subunit 3-199A, is described in Part II of this report.

The roads between Subunit 3-199A and the other subunits in Unit 3-199, and the roads separating those other subunits from each other, were constructed, are passable, receive use, and thus meet the road definition. Because these subunits do not meet the minimum size criteria, they are eliminated from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One agrees with the proposed decision. One states that Subunit 3-199A has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and should be designated as a wilderness study area, and the other recommends that all but 120 acres of the unit be a wilderness study area.

PRINEVILLE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 5-14

Unit Name: Steelhead Falls

Introduction: This unit contains 3,240 acres of public land. It consists of two subunits separated by a 40-acre parcel of Forest Service land and a 40-acre parcel of private land. It is a long, narrow unit located along the Deschutes River, within and adjacent to the Forest Service-administered Crooked River National Grassland. It is contiguous to the Forest Service's RARE II Area Number 6321. The President designated Area 6321 a further planning area in April 1979. The Forest Service conducted the further planning during 1979 in conjunction with a land management plan prepared for the National Grassland. The preferred alternative in the final environmental statement issued by the U.S. Forest Service after the proposed decision on Unit 5-14 was announced is that RARE II Area 6321 not be recommended for designation as wilderness.

Subunit Number: 5-14A

Description

Size: 1,200 acres.

Location: Approximately 16 miles southwest of Madras.

Boundaries: Private and Forest Service land on the west and north; private land on the south and east.

Physical characteristics: The subunit is a mile wide at its widest point and 1/4 mile at its narrowest. The Deschutes River flows through a steep-walled canyon in the eastern portion of the subunit. The majority of the subunit lies southwest of the river and contains a series of high rolling hills that rise over 400 feet above the canyon. Scattered clusters of juniper trees grow in the foothills. The understory is big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, cheatgrass, and other plants. Layered sedimentary rock formations are exposed along the western side of the river. The northwestern portion of the subunit is a plateau containing clusters of juniper trees and an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, cheatgrass, and other plants. Vegetation along the river includes red alder, redosier dogwood, wax current, spira, wildrose, penstemon, and sedge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II area. Subunit 5-14A does not meet any of the minimum size criteria in and of itself.

Naturalness: Several ways in the southeastern and southern portions of the subunit are substantially noticeable. The rest of the subunit appears generally free of the works of man. An old mining mill has historical value and is not considered obtrusive.

Solitude: The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The confining topography of the canyon and the narrow shape and limited acreage of the area above the canyon would prevent users from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people in the subunit.

Recreation: When the contiguous RARE II lands are taken into consideration, the subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for trout

fishing and hiking. In and of itself, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for these activities because of its limited size and narrow shape.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to designate 1,075 acres as a wilderness study area if the Forest Service recommended in its final environmental statement that the contiguous RARE II area be designated wilderness and to eliminate 125 acres in the southeastern and southern portions because they contain substantially noticeable ways.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixty-two comments were received. Sixty of these comments indicated support for the proposed decision. Virtually all of the sixty comments urged that the area be a wilderness study area, regardless of the Forest Service's decision. One of them recommended designation of a single, large wilderness study area including the adjoining BLM and Forest Service land. Many of the comments argued that the BLM lands could be managed as wilderness even though less than 5,000 acres in size. Two comments were against the designation of wilderness study areas, one expressing concern that wilderness study area status would limit permissable fish management activities.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The preferred alternative in Forest Service's final environmental statement for the Crooked River National Grasslands is that the public land it manages adjacent to this subunit not be recommended for wilderness designation. Therefore, the subunit must be evaluated by itself. Most of this subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, but it lacks outstanding wilderness values when considered alone. Because of the small size and irregular shape of this subunit, it would not be practicable to preserve, use or manage of these public lands as wilderness.

Subunit Number: 5-14B

Description

Size: 2,040 acres.

Location: Along the Deschutes River, approximately 12 miles southwest of Madras.

Boundaries: All boundaries are formed by non-BLM lands: i.e. withdrawn powersite lands, Forest Service land, and private land to the north; private land to the east; and private and Forest Service land to the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains approximately six and one-half miles of the Deschutes River Canyon. The subunit is approximately six and one-half miles long and ranges from 1/4 to 1/2 mile in width. Basalt and sedimentary rock formations of varying thickness, colors, and textures are exposed in the canyon. The basalt formations rise steeply from the canyon floor and form small plateaus in several locations. In the northern portion of the subunit, steep hills rise over 700 feet above the river. Vegetation along the river includes red alder, redosier dogwood, wax current, spira, wildrose, penstemon, and sedge. Vegetation on the sidehills and small plateaus includes clusters of juniper trees, occasional pine trees, and an understory of big sage, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, green rabbitbrush, buckwheat, wild rye, milkvetch, yarrow, and other plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II area. Subunit 5-14B does not meet the minimum size criteria in and of itself.

Naturalness: The majority of the subunit appears to be generally free of the works of man. The exception is approximately one acre in the northeastern corner, where a river gauging station is substantially noticeable. Several ways extend into the subunit, but they do not dominate the landscape. An old concrete retaining wall at Steelhead Falls blends into the surrounding environment and is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The confining topography of the canyon and the narrow shape and limited acreage of the area above the canyon may prevent users from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people in the subunit.

Recreation: When the contiguous RARE II lands are taken into consideration, the subunit offers outstanding opportunity for trout fishing and hiking. In and of itself, this subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreational activities.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to designate 2,039 acres as a wilderness study area if the Forest Service recommended in its final environmental statement that the contiguous RARE II area be designated wilderness and to eliminate one acre in the northeast corner because it contains a substantially noticeable gauging station.

Summary of Public Comments: Same as for subunit 5-14A.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Same as for subunit 5-14A.

Unit Number: 5-57

Unit Name: Peter Well

Size: 10,966 acres of public land. Two 40-acre parcels of private land are located in this unit.

Location: Eight miles southwest of Hampton.

Boundaries: BLM road and private land to the west, BLM road to the south, BLM road to the east, Highway 20, private, and state inholdings to the north.

Physical Characteristics: Low, rolling hills covered with big sage, little rabbitbrush, and other plants. The central portion of the unit contains shallow-basined canyons and small hills with occasional outcroppings of Columbia River Basalt. Dense stands of juniper trees dominate this area with an understory of big sage, little rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, western needlegrass, and other plants. The unit slopes gradually to the north; the northern portion contains little topographic relief. Vegetation includes scattered clusters of juniper trees with Idaho fescue, big sage, little rabbitbrush, low sage and other plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains two powerlines, two bulldozed cattle ponds, eleven miles of ways and five miles of fence. Powerlines cross

the western and northeastern portions of the unit. The powerlines are substantially noticeable in a parcel west of the powerline on the west side and in a parcel east of the powerline in the northeast corner. The two parcels contain a total of 915 acres. A way and a bulldozed cattle pond are substantially noticeable in three acres on the west side of the unit. The remaining 10,048 acres are generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: Although there is some topographic relief and vegetative screening in the unit, the size, shape, limited topographic relief, and insufficient vegetative screening do not provide outstanding opportunities for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the boundaries of the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers some opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. However, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area may contain threatened and endangered plant species from the Fabaceae, Liliaceae, and Scrophylariaceae plant families, but none have yet been identified within this unit.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One expresses the view that the unit is essentially natural, that it has outstanding opportunities for solitude, and should be designated a wilderness study area. The other requests that the inventory decision be postponed.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The intensive inventory decision on this unit has not been postponed. The public was informed of the accelerated schedule for this and other units in a July 1979 wilderness bulletin and in the report announcing the final decisions of the initial inventory in August 1979. The bulletin and the report were sent to over 2,000 individuals, organizations and agencies and were accompanied by news releases. In the bulletin and news release the public was encouraged to visit the units during the summer as they might be inaccessible during the fall. Considering the advance notice, plus the availability of 90 days for public review of the proposed decision, it was decided to announce the final decision at this time.

Although this unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, the relatively small size of this unit, the overall lack of topographic relief, and the lack of sufficient vegetative screening restrict any opportunities for solitude. Several primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available within this unit such as hiking, hunting, and photography. None of these activities can be experienced in an outstanding manner due to the lack of any unusual or exceptional natural features. There is very little diversity of topography, vegetation and wildlife. The attributes of this unit do not attract visitors to this unit.

Unit Number: 5-58

Unit Name: Imperial Well

Description

Size: 6,157 acres.

Location: Six miles southwest of Hampton.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the west, south and part of the east. Private land on part of the east, and Highway 20 on the north.

Physical Characteristics: Low rolling hills with little topographic relief. A dry river bed crosses the southern portion of the unit in an eastwest direction. The unit contains a few isolated outcrops of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt. The vegetation is dominated by big sagebrush, little rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, and other plants. Several small clusters of juniper trees grow along a basalt escarpment that parallels the dry river.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains three constructed reservoirs, four constructed cattle ponds, six and one-half miles of fence, and seven miles of ways that were constructed at one time. The reservoirs and ponds are substantially noticeable. The rest of the unit appears to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening and the unit's confining shape and size.

Recreation: This unit offers several opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. However, the opportunities are not outstanding because there are no unique or unusual points of interest within this unit. Likewise, there is very little topographic, vegetative, and wildlife diversity within this unit that would attract visitors to this unit.

Supplemental Values: This unit may contain plant species from the Fabaceae, Liliaceae, and Scrophulariaceae plant families, but none have yet been identified within the unit.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received and it requests that the inventory decision be postponed.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The intensive inventory decision on this unit has not been postponed. The public was informed of the accelerated schedule for this and other units in a July 1979 wilderness bulletin and in the report announcing the final decisions of the initial inventory in August 1979. The bulletin and the report were sent to over 2,000 individuals, organizations and agencies and were accompanied by news releases. In the bulletin and news release the public was encouraged to visit the units during the summer as they might be inaccessible during the fall. Considering this advance notice, plus the availability of 90 days for public review of the proposed decision, it was decided to announce the final decision at this time. Even though the majority of this unit generally remains in a natural condition, it's small size, irregular shape, lack of topographic relief, and lack of vegetative screening restrict opportunities for solitude. Hiking, hunting, and photography are available within the unit. These opportunities are less than outstanding, due to overall lack of topographic, vegetative and wildlife diversity. There are no unusual or exceptional natural features that would attract visitors to this unit.

PART II

PROPOSED DECISIONS ON OTHER INTENSIVELY INVENTORIED UNITS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

PART II

PROPOSED DECISIONS ON OTHER INTENSIVELY INVENTORIED UNITS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Overview

The proposed decisions being announced with this report and in a Federal Register notice scheduled to be printed on or about March 27, 1980, are that 71 areas and islands in Oregon and one island in Washington be identified as wilderness study areas. They contain approximately 1,750,000 acres. Approximately 4,206,000 acres do not have wilderness characteristics and are proposed for elimination from further wilderness review. This part of the report includes a unit-by-unit list of acreages of the proposed decisions and a section describing units and explaining the proposed decisions. The proposed wilderness study areas and the lands proposed for elimination from further review are shown on the accompanying maps.

In addition to the accompanying maps, the proposed decisions are shown on larger scale maps which you may obtain from the BLM district office which administers the unit or from the Public Affairs Room in the Oregon State Office in Portland. Office addresses and telephone numbers are listed in Appendix C. Be sure to indicate the numbers of the inventory units in which you are interested so we can send you the correct maps.

How to Participate

We hope you will let us know whether you agree or disagree with the proposed decisions. The 90-day comment period will close June 25, 1980.

To be used in the review of this decision, comments must address the wilderness characteristics of specific inventory units. Those characteristics are naturalness--the noticeability of human modifications of the landscape--and opportunities for experiencing solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Comments addressing other resource uses--such as livestock grazing or mining--cannot be used during the inventory but will be retained for consideration in the study phase of the wilderness review if the area is identified as a wilderness study area. The entire wilderness review process is described in Appendix A.

The inventory forms for all of the units are available for public inspection in the Oregon State Office. You may also review each district's inventory files in the district office.

We have enclosed public comment forms with this report for your use in writing comments. If you choose, your comments may also be provided in letters. COMMENT FORMS AND LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE WHICH ADMINISTERS THE UNIT IN QUESTION. The first digit in the unit number indicates which office administers the unit:

1 - Lakeview	6 - Baker
2 - Burns	11 - Medford
3 - Vale	12 - Coos Bay
5 - Prineville	13 - Spokane

Office addresses are listed at the end of this report.

Comments also may be presented orally at public meetings. See the Introduction for a list of meeting dates and locations.

Following the public comment period, all comments will be evaluated and the proposed decisions will be reviewed. The final decisions will formally identify areas of public land that qualify as wilderness study areas and which will continue to be subject to the interim management policy restrictions imposed by Section 603c of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Lands not included in wilderness study areas will be released from further wilderness review.

Acreage and Boundary Revisions

In some cases, inventory unit acreages in this report are different from those reported in the August 1979 report on the final decisions for the initial inventory. Some of the differences are due to recalculations of the acreages and corrections of earlier preliminary measurements. Other differences are the result of revisions in boundaries. During the field evaluations last summer and fall, it was learned that some boundary roads were not shown in the correct location on the initial inventory maps. In some cases, correction of the maps added acres to the units, and in others the units' acreages were reduced.

Another type of correction occurred when the inventory team learned that a unit boundary shown on the initial inventory maps did not meet the road definition used in the wilderness review. (The road definition is included in Appendix A to this report and in the Bureau's Wilderness Inventory Handbook.) This type of correction is unlike the one previously mentioned in that, in this case, the boundary road shown on the initial inventory map does not exist. In some units, this type of correction resulted in two intensive inventory units being combined. In others, it resulted in land which had been released from further wilderness review in the initial inventory being brought back into the wilderness review process.

In several units, roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the units into two or more subunits.

Specific boundary revisions are described in the unit descriptions later in this part of the report.

Interstate Units

Twelve units in the intensive inventory include public lands in Oregon and an adjacent state. One of the interstate units, Unit 2-81, Pueblo Mountains, is included in the group of proposed decisions announced on October 4, 1979, and

the final decisions described in Part I of this report. The other 11 interstate units are included in the proposed decisions described in this part of the report.

The district offices which administer lands in each interstate unit coordinated their wilderness inventories. The proposed decisions described later in this report relate to all public lands in the interstate units. The Idaho and Nevada State Directors will be receiving public comments on the proposed intensive inventory decisions for public lands in those states during approximately the same period as that set for proposed decisions in Oregon. The public comment period for proposed decisions on public lands in California outside of the California Desert was conducted last summer. However, the California State Director is deferring final decisions on the interstate units until after the public comment periods in the adjacent states.

The interstate units included in the proposed decisions being announced in this report and the unit numbers used to identify the units in the adjacent state are:

Oregon		Adjacent State	
Unit Number	Unit Name	Administering District	Unit Number
1-126	Coleman Valley	Susanville, CA*	CA-020-1010
1-157	Coleman Valley West	Susanville, CA*	CA-020-1005
1-164	Snuff	Susanville, CA*	CA-020-1004
2-78	Red Mountain	Winnemucca, NV	NV-020-859
2-80	Sand Hills	Winnemucca, NV	NV-020-609
3-153	Disaster Peak	Winnemucca, NV	NV-020-859
3-159	Tent Creek	Winnemucca, NV and Boise, ID	NV-020-811 ID-106-70E
3-172	Deer Flat	Winnemucca, NV	NV-020-809
3-191	Cairin "C"	Winnemucca, NV	NV-020-210
3-194	Lookout Butte	Boise, ID	ID-106-48A
3-195	Louse Canyon	Boise, ID	ID-106-48B

* All of CA-020-1010, CA-020-1005, and the eastern portion of CA-020-1004 are lands located in Nevada but administered by the Susanville District, California.

Oregon Coastal Islands

BLM administers hundreds of small islands off the Oregon Coast. Among them are 29 islands or groups of islands containing approximately 113 acres which Congress designated wilderness in 1978. The BLM State Director and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regional Director have proposed that the administration of most of those islands be transferred to the FWS and that they be included in the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

The BLM-administered, off-shore islands not designated wilderness in 1978 were included in the island inventory units listed in the April and August 1979 initial inventory reports and shown on the initial inventory maps. (Fish Rock, located just south of Bandon, was inadvertently omitted from the initial inventory maps.) They include:

Salem District: Inventory Units 8-9 through 8-24;
Eugene District: Inventory Units 9-2 through 9-6; and
Coos Bay District: Inventory Units 12-5 through 12-14.

The BLM State Director and FWS Regional Director have also proposed that most of the islands in these inventory units be transferred to the FWS and included in the wildlife refuge. The wilderness review of islands proposed for transfer will be deferred until after the transfer has been completed and will be conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some of the islands within six of the inventory units in the Coos Bay District are not proposed for transfer because they are readily accessible to people on foot at low tide and are not valuable habitat for marine mammals and birds. They are:

North Sisters Rocks - part of Unit 12-8;
Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks - Part of Unit 12-10;
Lone Ranch Rocks - part of Unit 12-12;
Harris Island - part of Unit 12-13;
Swagg Island and Table Rock - part of Unit 12-14; and
Fish Rock - Unit 12-15.

Proposed decisions on whether these islands should be wilderness study areas are described in the Coos Bay section of this report. The wilderness review of other islands in Units 12-8,12-10, 12-12, 12-13, and 12-14--along with the review of the islands in the other initial inventory units--will be conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service after the islands are included in the wildlife refuge.

Summary of Proposed Decisions

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
	LAKEVIEW		
1-2	Devils Garden Lava Bed	29,640	
1-3	Squaw Ridge Lava Bed	28,320	
1-4	Walker Cabin		34,080
1-6	Little Benjamin Lake		13,080
1-9	Bull Lake		32,360
1-10	Benjamin Lake		16,200
1-11	Chicago Valley		7,080
1-12	Lost Forest		6,240
1-21	South Green Mountain		14,720
1-22	Four Craters Lava Bed	12,120	
1-24	Sand Dunes		15,520
1-38	Cox Butte		41,200
1-52	Mack Cabin		24,000
1-53	Rawhide Creek		21,600
1-54	Monahan Lake		9,280
1-55	Pickett Spring		10,760
1-57	Robinson Lake		42,400
1-58	Diablo Mountain	113,120	
1-59	Whiskey Mountain		7,800
1-60	Coffee Lake		6,440
1-62	Whiskey Lake		48,560
1-63	Combined with Unit 1-62		
1-64	Twin Buttes		22,080
1-65	Saunders Rim		17,000
1-67	Nub		6,520
1-71	Gray's Butte		25,040
1-72	Juniper Mountain		11,760
1-73	Pack Saddle Draw		18,680
1-74	Juniper Creek		23,280
1-75	Egan Cabin		6,240
1-79	Balls Lake		6,000
1-80	Twin Lakes		17,920
1-82	North Euchre Butte		22,600
1-85	Eagle Butte		13,220
1-86	Natural Corral Draw		12,500
1-87	Horseshoe Rim		21,000
1-88	Sunstone Mine North		29,360
1-89	Bacon Camp		5,560
1-90	Sunrise Canyon		4,880
1-93	Spine Cob Butte		11,000
1-94	Poker Jim Flat		14,360
1-95	ZX Ranch		21,120
1-96	Coglan Buttes		32,000
1-98	Abert Burn South		18,200

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
1-101	Abert Rim		22,880
1-102	Binkie Lake		13,440
1-106	Flint Hills		23,840
1-108	Rabbit Hills		15,360
1-114	Warner Lakes		33,680
1-115	Guano Slough		106,480
1-117	Monument Flat		16,240
1-117B		18,520	
1-118	Wakefield Cabin		28,880
1-120	Coleman Rim		11,280
1-124	Fish Canyon South		8,160
1-125	Horsehead Lake		12,000
* 1-126	Coleman Valley		23,640
1-127	Wool Lake		5,360
1-128	Long Lake		9,000
1-129	Jack Lake		10,000
1-130	Little Reservoir		24,280
1-131	Clover Swale		7,640
1-132	Guano Creek		10,560
1-133	Guano Lake West		13,480
1-134	Lone Grave Butte		25,440
1-135	Guano Lake		11,680
1-136	Beatys Butte		5,580
1-137	Mahogany Mountain		8,000
1-138	Buckaroo Pass		12,640
1-139	Spaulding Reservoir		4,640
1-139B		65,720	
1-140	Sagehen Spring		13,440
1-142	Wilson Spring		16,040
1-143	Ryegrass Valley		31,880
1-144	Bald Mountain		14,040
1-145	Sagehen Flat		15,715
1-146	Hawksie Walksie		760
1-146A		68,360	3,800
1-146B		8,520	
1-148	Miller Creek		6,480
1-149	Bumpheads		18,560
1-155	Swan Lake Rim		8,760
* 1-157	Coleman Valley West		10,000
1-158	Breezy		6,240
1-159	Catlow Valley		58,000
1-162	Combined with Unit 1-157		
* 1-164	Snuff		1,440

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to the unit narrative for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
	BURNS		
2-18	Skull Creek		8,795
2-19	Silvies River		7,520
2-30	Palomino Buttes		13,075
2-43	Wagontire Mountain		48,875
2-44	Tired Horse		8,275
2-45	Combined with Unit 2-43		
2-47	Surprise Lake		21,940
2-48	Hay Lake		18,350
2-49	Sheep Lake		28,965
2-50	Claw Creek		8,600
2-52	Miller Canyon		5,805
2-53	Gum Boot Canyon		8,475
2-54	Saddle Butte		9,120
2-55	Frenchglen		65,925
2-56	Black Rim		13,555
2-57	Jackass Creek		19,255
2-58	Keg Springs		22,200
2-59	Taylor Cabin		14,850
2-60	Weed Lake		19,520
2-61	Foster Flat		42,760
2-62	Nothing There		10,620
2-63	Chicken Feed Lake		12,800
2-64	Buzzard Creek		34,495
2-65	Deep Canyon		6,215
2-67	Iron Mountain		13,580
2-68	Smokey Hollow		8,225
2-69	Devils Canyon		14,015
2-70	Wilson Butte		9,745
2-71	Goose Egg		15,930
2-72	Sheepshead Mountains		98,460
2-72C		50,300	
2-72I		38,855	
2-73	Winter Range		35,715
2-73A		21,395	
2-73H		14,640	
2-75	Black Point		51,300
2-77	Mahogany Ridge		18,588
2-77B		23,780	
* 2-78	Red Mountain		10,420
* 2-78D		2,720	
2-78F		14,730	3,740
* 2-80	Sand Hills		14,990

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to the unit narrative for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
2-83	Alvord Peak		8,260
2-83A		14,655	16,665
2-84	Basque Hills		148,290
2-85	South Steens		76,805
2-85F		67,320	3,690
2-86	Blitzen River		8,560
2-86E		52,060	6,500
2-86F		9,380	
2-87	Bridge Creek		28,470
2-88	Moon Hill		9,900
2-91	Guano Slough		22,165
2-92	Dead Horse		36,970
2-93	South Bollenbaugh		20,545
2-94	Walls Lake		51,130
2-98	Strawberry Mountain		2,400
2-98A		180	20
2-98C		720	
2-98D		208	2
2-103	Aldrich Mountain I		6,450
2-110	Cottonwood Creek		5,145
2-111	Hay Creek		7,610
2-114	Syrup Canyon		7,570
2-115	Alkali Flat		14,285
	VALE		
3-6	DeArmond Mountain		45,510
3-8	Westfall Highlands		15,600
3-12	Hog Creek		20,480
3-16	Lower Bully Creek		19,060
3-18	Castle Rock		7,160
3-19	North Fork Malheur River		3,160
3-20	Mustang Basin		13,120
3-22	Cottonwood Creek		11,560
3-24	Buckbrush Creek		7,800
3-27	Steamboat Rock	18,980	
3-30	Slaughter Gulch		15,400
3-31	Camp Creek	15,520	
3-32	Coleman Spring	7,040	
3-33	Gold Creek		900
3-33A		13,500	
3-34	Squaw Creek		3,040
3-35	Saddle Horse Spring	5,330	10
3-41	Keeney Creek		1,540
3-41A		12,780	1,960
3-44	Star Mountain	14,360	
3-47	Cedar Mountain	43,380	
3-50	Freezeout Ridge		13,140
3-51	Broken Rim		10,800
3-52	Rock Canyon		8,460

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
3-53	Dry Creek	22,860	9,520
3-54	Burnt Mountain		9,600
3-56	Dry Creek Buttes	43,700	2,720
3-57	Quartz Mountain	11,080	4,340
3-58	Combined with Unit 3-110		
3-59	Lower Owyhee River		100
3-59A		12,800	200
3-68	McIntyre Ridge		14,540
3-70	Spring Mountain		23,960
3-73	Blue Canyon	12,360	1,160
3-74	Bannock Ridge		460
3-74A		3,200	8,740
3-75	Black Rock	6,800	
3-76	Combined with Unit 3-56		
3-77	Honeycombs		920
3-77A		36,500	5,500
3-77B		12,000	
3-79	Mahogany Mountain		10,600
3-80	Mud Flat		8,760
3-82	Washboard Reservoir		7,040
3-100	Duck Pond		19,780
3-105	Piute		9,400
3-107	Obenchain		6,700
3-108	Turnbull Peak		13,240
3-110	Bull Creek	37,600	12,910
3-111	Saddle Butte	87,580	
3-112	Scott's Butte		46,130
3-113	Rye Grass		21,300
3-114	Palomino Hills		54,900
3-116	FlatTop Mountain		16,100
3-118	Bowden Hills		260
3-118A		50,800	4,100
3-119	Barren Valley		63,120
3-120	Clarks Butte	31,000	8,300
3-121	Deadman Creek	8,440	
3-124	Bogus Rim		5,680
3-126	Combined with Unit 3-110		
3-127	Little Crater		20,300
3-128	Jordan Craters		1,930
3-128A		28,000	500
3-130	Whitehorse Butte		25,420
3-132	Parsnip Peak	10,800	11,200
3-138	Combined with Unit 3-130		
3-143	Owyhee River		2,200
3-143A		44,760	6,290
3-144	Hardin		21,200
3-145	Winter Range		86,000
3-146	Indian Fort		27,500
3-148	Big Grassy Mountain		27,700
3-149	Hanson Canyon		15,960
3-152	Whitehorse Creek	27,350	14,970

	DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
*	3-153	Disaster Peak	13,420	
	3-157	Oregon Canyon	49,400	16,200
*	3-159	Tent Creek		32,440
	3-160	High Peak		14,040
	3-162	Twelvemile		3,760
	3-162A		27,160	8,840
	3-163	Blue Mountain		61,980
	3-164	Alcorta Rim		15,560
	3-171	Pole Creek		19,200
*	3-172	Deer Flat		11,200
	3-173	Jack's Creek		1,560
	3-173A		78,920	1,160
	3-176	Combined with Unit 3-143		
	3-178	Rattlesnake Creek		58,400
	3-179	Rawhide		21,740
	3-180	High Ridge		15,500
	3-181	Antelope Creek		21,380
	3-182	Red Rocks		22,400
	3-183	Deadhorse		16,300
	3-186	Field Creek		11,580
	3-187	Combined with Unit 3-159		
	3-188	Star Valley		10,320
	3-189	Combined with Unit 3-195		
*	3-191	Cairin "C"		7,960
	3-192	Combined with Unit 3-195		
	3-193	Combined with Unit 3-195		
*	3-194	Lookout Butte		65,640
*	3-195	Louse Canyon	128,840	
	3-196	Combined with Unit 3-195		
	3-197	Combined with Unit 3-195		
	3-198	Combined with Unit 3-194		
	3-200	Combined with Unit 3-178		
	3-201	Combined with Unit 3-178		
	3-203	Combined with Unit 3-157		
		PRINEVILLE		
	5-5	Horse Ridge		4,855
	5-6	Lower John Day	19,370	2,575
	5-8	North Pole Ridge	6,062	6,120
	5-9	Spring Basin	5,982	301
	5-10	Mt. Misery		5,055
	5-11	Fossil Beds		7,623
	5-18	Rocky Canyon		8,466
	5-19	Chimney Rock		5,120
	5-20	Alkali Flat		7,035

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to the unit narrative for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
5-21	Badlands	32,053	1,119
5-22	Dry River		6,221
5-23	West Butte		16,440
5-31	North Fork	10,701	379
5-33	South Fork	19,631	29
5-34	Sand Hollow	8,791	29
5-35	Gerry Mountain	20,703	1,137
5-36	Redman Rim		12,823
5-40	Sears Creek		11,980
5-41	Combined with Unit 5-42		
5-42	Hampton Butte		1,740
5-42A		10,480	120
5-43	Cougar Well	17,026	289
5-46	Hampton		8,650
5-47	Stockpile		8,300
5-49	Hemstad		15,553
5-50	Whiskey Springs		6,792
5-51	Twin Pines		12,600
5-52	Dickerson Well		9,040
5-53	Two Post Lake		11,545
5-55	Lone Pine		17,175
5-56	Fredrick Butte		8,380
5-59	Grassy Lake		24,337
5-60	Combined with Unit 5-59		
5-63	Stud Horse Butte		16,504
5-64	Glass Butte		10,911
5-65	Round Mountain		20,080
5-66	Combined with Unit 5-59		
5-68	Steamboat Island		1
5-69	Eagle Butte Island		1
5-76	Kimberly Island		1
5-77	Refer to Unit Narrative		
5-78	Refer to Unit Narrative		
5-79	Conbined with Unit 5-8		
5-80	Refer to Unit Narrative		
5-81	Refer to Unit Narrative		
5-82	Nomanisa Island		1
5-83	Fantasy Island		2
	BAKER		
6-1	McGraw Creek	1,610	290
6-2	Homestead	10,700	1,100
6-3	Sheep Mountain	6,350	1,850
6-10	Cache Creek Ranch	2,935	
6-11	Teepee Ridge		240
6-13	- Island		5
6-14	- Island		4
6-15	- Island		6
6-38	- Island		4

Inventory Unit Number	DISTRICT Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
6-39	- Island		2
6-40	Hooker Gulch		6,100
	MEDFORD		
11-1	Mountain Lakes	320	
11-16	Zane Gray		18,460
11-17	Soda Mountain	5,640	
	COOS BAY		
12-8A	North Sisters Rocks	North Sisters Rocks	
12-10A	Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks		Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks
12-12A	Lone Ranch Rocks		Lone Ranch Rocks
12-13A	Harris Island		Harris Island
12-14A	Zwagg Island and Table Rock	Zwagg Island	Table Rock
12-15	Fish Rock		Fish Rock
	SPOKANE		
13-1	Juniper Forest		7,806
13-2	Chopaka Mountain		5,560
13-3	Lummi Rocks		8
13-4	Blind Island		2
13-5	Chuckanut Rocks		1
13-6	Fauntleroy Rock		1
13-7	Dot Rock		1
13-8	Refer to Unit Narrative		
13-9	Read's Bay Island		3
13-10	Twin Rocks		2
13-11	Barnes Rocks		1
13-12	Clark Rocks		1
13-14	Matia Rock		2
13-15	Davis Bay Island and Rocks		2
13-16	Richardson Rock		2
13-17	Skull Island		3
13-18	Harbor Rocks		1
13-19	Trinka Rock		1
13-20	Oak Island and Rock		1
13-21	Victim Island		3
13-22	Jap Island		1
13-23	Freeman Island and Beach Haven Rock		2
13-24	Little Patos Island	15	
13-25	Ewing Rocks - Refer to Unit Narrative		
13-26	Refer to Unit Narrative		
13-27	King Islands		1
13-28	Kanaka Bay Islands		3

DISTRICT Inventory Unit Number	Name	Acres Included in Wilderness Study Area	Acres Eliminated From Further Wilderness Review
13-29	Park Bay Island		2
13-30	North Pass and McConnell Rocks		2
13-31	Broken Point Island		1
13-32	Posey Island		1
13-33	Mitchells Bay Rocks and Guss Island		4
13-34	Pudding Island		1
13-35	John's Pass Rock and Rock Island		1
13-36	Prevost Harbor Rocks		2
13-37	Reid Harbor Rock		1
13-38	John's Island Rock		1
13-39	Reservation Bay Rocks		1
13-40	Little Deadman and Deadman Islands		6
13-41	Narrow Rocks		2
13-44	Rockport Island		20
13-50	Clallam County Islands		20
13-59	Indian Island		2
13-60	Prindle Island		185
13-62	Lawrence Lake Island		1
13-63	Eagle Island		10
13-67	Columbia River Islands		270

Description of Units and Explanations of Proposed Decisions

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT

Unit Number: 1-2

Unit Name: Devils Garden Lava Bed

Description

Size: 29,640 acres.

Location: Approximately eight miles northeast of Fort Rock.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6179, 6189 and W 48, and, for approximately 14 miles, private and U.S. Forest Service land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists primarily of a large lava flow. The southern half is a rather smooth-surfaced flow with broad expanses containing minor to moderate surface irregularities. The northern portion of the unit contains numerous cinder cones and very rugged topography. The Devils Garden in the center of the unit is not covered with flow lava and supports sagebrush and grasses. This portion of the unit was recently acquired by the bureau and has been used for cattle grazing for many years. Vegetation on the unit is mixed sage, grasses, and juniper. Some ponderosa pine grows in the northern part of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains some old ranch structures in the Devils Garden area which are considered to have historical significance. The unit contains approximately ten miles of ways and a three mile intrusion road which enters the Devils Garden and goes as far as the well in Section 16. The ways in the unit are not substantially noticeable due to the extremely rugged terrain in the lava flows and the location of the ways. Most are barely traceable on the ground. There is one substantial way approximately one mile long going to Derrick Cave in the northeast corner of the unit. The most substantial visible feature of man's works in the unit is the 500 KV powerline which parallels the east boundary of the unit. The extremely rugged conditions in the unit and the topographic and vegetative screening near the listed intrusions provide a condition of apparent naturalness through the entire unit.

Solitude: The extremely rugged terrain in the unit provides outstanding opportunities to experience solitude. One can readily separate oneself from others in the unit, even though they may be in close proximity.

Recreation: The area offers outstanding, though very rugged hiking opportunities. The area provides abundant opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, and study of geologic features.

Supplemental Values: The area contains archeologic sites and historic values in the Devils Garden area. The unit also contains Derrick Cave, a lava tube cave of significant proportions.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 29,640-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The area is in an apparently natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation as well as supplemental values related to geology, archeology and history.

Unit Number: 1-3

Unit Name: Squaw Ridge Lava Bed

Description

Size: 28,320 acres of public land. There are 320 acres of private land in the northeast part of the unit.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Fort Rock.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6169, 6159 and County Road 5-12. Approximately 12 miles of boundary are delineated by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a fairly recent lava flow. Lava Butte is a large peak in the central portion of the unit. The topography is extemely rugged with broken lava and sharp flow lavas covering most of the unit. A flat area near the northern boundary is outside the flow. The vegetation on the unit is grass, sage and scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately seven miles of vehicle ways which approach the edge of the lava flow at several locations. These ways are not substantially noticeable in the majority of the unit. Because of the extremely rugged character of the unit, it has remained in a primarily natural condition.

Solitude: The majority of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Travel in the unit is difficult due to the ruggedness of the area and a person has an outstanding feeling of solitude even a short way inside the unit.

Recreation: The area lacks any free water and offers extremely challenging terrain to the hiker or backpacker. The challenging nature of the unit intensifies the recreation experience. The unit offers outstanding potential for wildlife observation, geology study and photography among other pursuits.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers archeologic and geologic values for study.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 28,320-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The majority of the unit is in a natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-4

Unit Name: Walker Cabin

Description

Size: 34,080 acres of public land. There are two private tracts totalling 720 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: The east and north boundary is BLM Road 6171. The west boundary is County Road 5012. The south boundary is delineated by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the terrain is rolling, and there are small hills near the Walker Butte area. Most of the unit contains moderate to dense juniper cover. The southern third of the unit opens to sage flats at the north edge of Christmas Lake Valley. There are three fairly large ephemeral lakes near the northern boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit is traversed by five major vehicle ways which are considerably noticeable. These ways total approximately 24 miles in length. The east boundary road is associated with a 500 KV DC powerline which is very apparent on the east side of the unit and constitutes a strong impact on naturalness on the east side of the unit. The lakebeds in the north of the unit have been developed with lakebed pits and numerous vehicle ways. Though small segments of the unit are undisturbed, the unit does not appear generally natural and the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Terrain and vegetation provide some degree of solitude in small areas, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit provides some limited opportunities for activities such as photography, wildlife observation and hunting, but the potential is not outstanding within the region.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural as the works of man are substantially noticeable. The unit also lacks any outstanding potential for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-6

Unit Name: Little Benjamin Lake

Description

Size: 13,080 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of private land in the northern part of the unit.

Location: Approximately 15 miles northeast of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6121, 6141, and 6171 and County Road 5-12.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has low rolling hills in the south with sage and juniper cover. The northern portion is somewhat flatter with sagebrush and scattered juniper and several shallow lakebeds.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains several lakebed pits in the north and east which are substantially noticeable for a considerable distance because of the low topography. A wood pole powerline runs approximately five miles north to south through the western side of the unit. Because the poles are higher than the juniper, the line is very noticeable from a considerable distance in all directions. A vehicle way parallels the powerline. The unit contains approximately four miles of fenceline on the south which remain substantially unnoticeable. The water developments and powerline represent significant impacts given the size, topography and vegetation of the unit. The unit does not appear primarily natural and the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of its narrow shape and limited topographic screening, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It would be difficult to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers some limited opportunities for hiking and horseback riding, but the recreation opportunities are less than outstanding. The unit is small and does not offer strong attractions to the recreationist.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-9

Unit Name: Bull Lake

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with and includes portions of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) and Wilderness Instant Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all natural and primitive areas designated prior to November 1, 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the wilderness review schedule of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Lost Forest RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that portions of it would be re-evaluated as portions of contiguous inventory units. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of one of the units which includes part of the RNA.

Description

Size: 32,360 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 560 acres in the center of the unit.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6121 and 6141. A small portion of the northeast corner of the unit is bounded by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The north half of the unit contains rolling hills with moderate to dense juniper cover. The highest point on the unit is West Butte. The south half of the unit has minor rolling contours and flats with a number of small ephemeral lakebeds. Cover on the south half of the unit is big sagebrush with occasional scattered junipers. The southwest corner of the unit contains the Wardell Seeding, a drilled seeding of approximately 3,000 acres.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 12 miles of fenceline, and nearly ten miles of vehicle ways. The ways and fences are not substantially noticeable. The unit contains four large lakebed pits which are visible for a considerable distance. The southwest corner of the unit contains 3,000 acres of seeding which does not appear natural. The majority of the unit, aside from the seeding, appears generally natural, and the impacts of mans works are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Small areas with rolling hills and juniper in the north half of the unit provide an opportunity for some degree of solitude. The south half is much flatter with sagebrush cover that would not offer any significant opportunity to be free of the presence of others. The unit does not provide any areas with an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some potential for hiking, wildlife observation and hunting. The unit does not present opportunities for recreation which would be outstanding in nature.

Supplemental Values: Approximately 200 acres in the south of the unit are located inside the Lost Forest Research Natural area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The southwest portion of the unit has approximately 3,000 acres which do not meet the naturalness criteria. The remaining acreage in the unit has a generally natural appearance; however, the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-10

Unit Name: Benjamin Lakes

Description

Size: 16,200 acres.

Location: Approximately 18 miles northwest of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6101, 6121 and spurs. Approximately five miles of boundary are private land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has a low, rolling landscape with numerous small drainages and very low hills. The vegetation on the unit is mixed sage and scattered juniper. Benjamin Lake is a large ephemeral lakebed in the northeast part of the unit. Several smaller lakebeds are scattered through the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Aside from several ways and pit developments in the immediate vicinity of Banjamin Lake, the unit remains in an essentially natural condition. Approximately two miles of fenceline near the northwest boundary are relatively unnoticeable.

Solitude: The gentle contours and juniper screening offer a degree of solitude in part of the unit. However, because of the limited size of the portion offering solitude and the limited overall size of the unit, the opportunity is less than outstanding.

Recreation: The area offers limited potential for hiking, photography and wildlife observation. The topography and vegetation are similar to that in the rest of the region and do not provide outstanding recreation opportunities. The unit contains Benjamin Cave, a lava tube cave which offers some potential for limited exploration. The cave is small and does not offer an outstanding opportunity.

Supplemental Values: Benjamin Cave offers some geologic interest. The unit possesses archeologic values, though they are not documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in a generally natural condition and offers limited opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The potential for recreation and solitude is limited by the terrain and size of the unit and is not considered to be outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-11

Unit Name: Chicago Valley

Description

Size: 7,080 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Road W60 on the north, and BLM Road 6101 on the west, south and east.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is approximately two miles wide six miles long. The unit is located on a low east-west ridge with sagebrush and juniper. The unit contains three small lakebeds and a portion of a fourth lakebed on the west.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit remains in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The narrow shape, small size, and moderate topography allow only a minimal opportunity for a person to avoid others in the unit. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Because of its narrow shape and lack of topographic or other significant features which might represent recreation attractions, the unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in an apparently natural condition but does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its limited size, shape, and moderate topography.

Unit Number: 1-12

Unit Name: Lost Forest Adjacent Lands

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with and includes portions of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) and Wilderness Instant Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all natural and primitive areas designated prior to November 1, 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the wilderness review schedule of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Lost Forest RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that portions of it would be re-evaluated as portions of contiguous inventory units. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of one of the units which includes part of the RNA.

Description

Size: 6,240 acres.

Location: Approximately 15 miles east of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6121, 6141, 6151.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains two ephemeral lakes on the east and northeast. A ridgeline runs north to south, with flats to the east and slightly rolling country to the west. The portions outside the RNA are primarily flat to gently rolling. The land inside the RNA contains sand dunes and rolling hills with juniper and ponderosa pine.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has been disturbed by numerous human activities and in general does not appear to be in a natural condition. A major portion of the unit was logged in 1954 and still bears the scars of that action. The unit contains four miles of fenceline and several ways which are substantially noticeable because of the limited size of the unit and exposure of these impacts to the visitor in the majority of the area.

Solitude: The limited size of the unit, the topography, and general exposure throughout the unit combine to prevent one from achieving any substantial degree of solitude in the unit. A person would not be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers marginal opportunities for day use of the area. The uniqueness of the isolated ponderosa pine stands is of interest. However, the unit itself does not offer outstanding recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: The ponderosa pine in the Lost Forest are unique in that they are growing in an area with an average annual precipitation that is generally considered too little to sustain the species.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature with the impacts of man substantially unnoticeable. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 1-21

Unit Name: South Green Mountain

Description

Size: 14,720 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of private land inholdings in the south central part of the unit.

Location: Approximately nine miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: Road boundaries on the north, south and west of the unit are spurs of BLM Road 6109. The south boundary and approximately two miles on the northwest are private land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a sagebrush flat located above a bench on the north edge of Christmas Valley. The unit rises toward the north to rolling hills and a large rock outcrop at South Green Mountain. The unit has scattered juniper increasing in density to the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately seven and one half miles of fenceline and eight miles of vehicle ways associated with grazing operations. There is one large reservoir (Ward Reservoir) in the northwest. There is a watering station near South Green Mountain where water has been trucked in for a number of years. Ward Reservoir and the vehicle ways are minor disturbances to natural conditions, but the area remains generally natural in appearance.

Solitude: The northern part of the unit offers some opportunity for solitude because there are more juniper and topographic features to provide screening than there are in the south. The southern portion of the unit offers very little opportunity for one to avoid the presence of others in the unit. The unit as a whole offers some degree of solitude but not any outstanding opportunity.

Recreation: The northern portion of the unit offers some opportunities for hiking, wildlife observation and hunting. The opportunities through the unit are not outstanding for primitive recreation because of restrictions of size, topography and interest features in the unit.

Supplemental Values: Though none have been inventoried the unit may possess some archeologic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit remains generally natural in appearance. There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation on the unit.

Unit Number: 1-22

Unit Name: Four Craters Lava Bed

Description

Size: 12,120 acres.

Location: Approximately nine miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: The north and west boundaries are BLM Road 6109. The east and south boundaries are private land and County Road 5-14.

Physical Description: The east side of the unit and southern one-third are sage and juniper flats with limited relief. The remaining portion of the unit, approximately 5,000 acres, is a recent lava flow with extremely rugged surface features and four large spatter cones on a north-to-south line through the flow. The unit also contains "Crack-in-the-Ground", a unique geologic feature in the basalt which reaches a maximum depth of approximately 70 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately three and one-half miles of vehicle way on the east and approximately two miles of way going toward Crack-in-the-Ground on the west. The unit also contains a pit toilet and visitor use area near the north end of the Crack-in-the Ground. The unit remains in a generally natural appearance with disturbance near the Crack-in-the-Ground.

Solitude: The east and southern portions of the unit offer only minor solitude to the visitor. The lava portion of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the rugged topography and juniper cover. The feeling of solitude in the lava fields and near the spatter cones dominates one's experience in the unit.

Recreation: The lava area and spatter cones offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, photography, sightseeing and investigation of geologic features. The Crack-in-the-Ground is currently a popular visitor site within the Lakeview District and rates very highly as a scenic attraction.

Supplemental Values: The unusual combination of geologic features with recent flow lava, spatter cones and the oddity of the Crack-in-the-Ground is a considerable supplemental scientific value within the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,120-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit, though relatively small, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined recreation. The majority of the unit is in an apparently natural condition. The unit offers an unusual combination of geologic features as a supplemental value.

Unit Number: 1-24

Unit Name: Sand Dunes

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with and includes portions of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) and Wilderness Instant Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all natural and primitive areas designated prior to July 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the wilderness review schedule of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Lost Forest RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that portions of it would be re-evaluated as portions of contiguous inventory units. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of one of the units which includes part of the RNA.

Description

Size: 15,520 acres.

Location: Approximately nine miles northeast of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6141, 6151 and 6171. The south boundary is the edge of an area determined in a 1977-78 wilderness inventory to lack wilderness characteristics. Segments of the north and west boundary are defined by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is sand dunes and broad sand flats with very sparse vegetation. Around the borders of the unit, the low, rolling topography was formed when sand built up low hills or hummocks around vegetation. Vegetation in the unit consists of sage, rabbitbrush and greasewood with scattered Elymus in the dunes.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit remains substantially natural in appearance due to the shifting of the dunes. A well and some minor vehicle ways in the northern portion of the unit comprise the only significant evidence of man in the unit. These features are relatively unnoticeable within the context of the entire unit.

Solitude: The unit offers broad expanses of sand and some large dunes spread through the unit which give a very strong feeling of desolation. This leaves one with some potential for solitude in the unit. However, opportunities for remaining apart from others in the unit are less than outstanding. The terrain is basically open and the unit's size and shape place visitors in the unit in close proximity to each other .

Recreation: The unit offers opportunity for hiking. The high winds which frequently move vast quantities of sand and dust and lack of water would considerably limit the quality of the experience for backpacking and primitive camping in the unit. The primitive recreation opportunities on the unit are limited and represent less than outstanding potential.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes are a unique ecosystem in Eastern Oregon and are of great interest as a geologic oddity. The sand dunes contribute to the sustained growth of ponderosa pine in the Lost Forest Research Natural area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The shifting sand dunes eliminate the traces of off-road vehicle use in the unit and it remains in an apparently natural condition. The unit does not present outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation as the size is somewhat limited for an area with open topography and vegetation.

Unit Number: 1-38

Unit Name: Cox Butte

Description

Size: 41,200 acres.

Location: Eight miles south of Wagontire.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6130, 6110, 6120 B, and 6120 A.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is sagebrush flats and low rolling contours dropping in elevation to Dry Valley on the east. The unit contains some minor draws which open out to the east. The northern end of the unit climbs in elevation toward Little Juniper Mountain and the highest point in the unit is Cox Butte. The unit has sage cover and a large grass seeding. Scattered junipers occur on the northern border.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The unit contains 25 waterholes ranging from small reservoirs in drainages to large lakebed pits. There are 29 miles of ways in the unit. Several of the ways are in good condition despite being classed as ways. A significant intrusion is the Cox Grove Seeding; at 1800 acres in size, this drilled seeding is obvious evidence of man's works in the unit. The general flatness of the terrain leaves one exposed to all the developments listed above, and the area does not retain a natural appearance. The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria because the developments are scattered through the unit to the extent that they are unavoidable.

Solitude: Small areas in the northern end of the unit, where the land is slightly more broken and vegetated, might offer some opportunity for solitude. However, such areas are limited and do not offer any outstanding opportunities.

Recreation: The unit offers high potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The area supports many birds as well as deer and substantial herds of antelope. Small mammals are also abundant in the area. Although the area could be hiked and could provide some areas of interest for the recreationist, the obvious disturbances prevent the experience from having primitive or wilderness qualities.

Supplemental Values: The area would be expected to possess some archeologic values and has high wildlife values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the area does offer some high potential for recreational use, it lacks any outstanding opportunity for solitude, is severely affected by the works of man, and does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Unit Number: 1-52

Unit Name: Mack Cabin

Description

Size: 24,000 acres of public land. The unit contains 320 acres of private land in a single tract near the west boundary.

Location: Approximately 30 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: Approximately six and one-half miles of the west boundary are private land. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6110, 6155 D and 6165.

Physical Characteristics: The west half of the unit is essentially a long narrow sage flat known as Dry Valley. The east half of the unit includes the high rim which rises above Dry Valley and the flat sagelands above and east of the rim. The south end of the unit has some rolling contours and three ephemeral lakebeds.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 13 miles of scattered ways which generally lead to water developments. There are six reservoirs and three substantial lakebed pits in the unit. The reservoirs are generally unnoticeable and the lake developments affect only the nearby areas. The unit remains in a generally natural appearance with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The east and west halves of the unit are separated by a rather high rim but each half is essentially a flat to slightly rolling sagebrush area which offers little opportunity to avoid the sights or sounds of others in that half of the unit. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers limited potential for hunting and hiking. The extremely narrow configuration of the unit precludes any real opportunity to pursue a primitive and unconfined recreational experience.

Supplemental Values: None were documented during the inventory, though some archeologic values might be present.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit lacks any significant opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its shape and topography.

Unit Number: 1-53

Unit Name: Rawhide Creek

Description

Size: 21,600 acres of public land. The unit has five blocks of private and State inholdings totalling 2,780 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: State land and the Dry Valley Road in the northwest. The remaining boundaries are BLM roads 6165 and 6155 and spurs.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit is basically a high plateau with Rawhide Canyon along the north and east, and several tributaries to Rawhide Creek forming substantial canyons within the unit. These streams are all ephemeral and the canyons are dry most of the year. Rawhide Creek divides into several small canyons in the south end of the unit. The canyons are the only significant topographic relief and reach a maximum depth of perhaps 200 feet. The canyon walls are generally sloped with few vertical or near-vertical features. Vegetation in the unit is a sagebrush community with low sage over the majority of the unit and big sagebrush occurring in the wetter areas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Eleven ways in the unit total approximately 24 miles in length. These ways spread through the area and are substantially noticeable. There are ways penetrating the majority of these side canyons and the north boundary road passes down the bottom of the deepest portion of Rawhide Canyon. They bring a substantial impact into those portions of the unit which would be the highest interest areas. The unit has approximately five miles of fenceline which are not substantially noticeable. There are six reservoirs in the unit, three of which are quite large and form a substantial impact at Arthur Lake, in Indian Canyon, and in a large drainage in Section 16 south of Rawhide Springs Reservoir. Because of these man-made features and their high exposure through the unit, it does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. The disturbances are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: It would be very difficult to achieve solitude in the majority of the plateau area because a visitor would be exposed to the presence of others in the unit. There is some opportunity for solitude in the canyons of the unit although these areas would be concentrated use areas and as such could not provide an outstanding potential for avoiding the the presence of other persons. The canyons are not large enough to provide outstanding isolation potential.

Recreation: The area offers opportunity for hunting and horseback riding as well as hiking. The canyons are interesting and offer a potential for recreation. However, the human disturbances in these areas would severely hamper the prospect of a primitive and unconfined experience.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains archeologic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is severely affected by ways and other developments and does not meet the naturalness criteria. The area does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 1-54

Unit Name: Monahan Lake

Description

Size: 9,280 acres.

Location: Approximately 40 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: Spurs of BLM Road 6155.

Physical Characteristics: The east side of the unit is a valley bottom with three lakebeds. A ridge runs north to south through the unit with an escarpment on the east; a gentle down-slope canted to the west forms the remaining portion of the unit. Cover in the unit is a big sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains six reservoirs and nine miles of vehicle ways. Considering the size and narrow shape of the unit, these features represent a significant impact of man's works in the unit. The unit does not remain in an essentially natural condition.

Solitude: The unit is long and narrow in configuration, and with the low vegetation cover, a person would not be able to avoid the sounds and sights of others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers some hunting potential but little opportunity for primitive recreation. The narrow confines and exposure of the unit are not favorable for recreation.

Supplemental Values: None were recorded during the inventory.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not retain a generally natural appearance because the works of man are substantially noticeable. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-55

Unit Name: Pickett Spring

Description

Size: 10,760 acres.

Location: Approximately 40 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155, 7175 and W 23.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is primarily rolling sagebrush country with some broad open valleys. A steep hillside rises from the northwest boundary. The eastern portions of the unit are at a higher elevation.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains seven reservoirs and approximately seven miles of barely followable vehicle ways. The intrusions are not substantially noticeable and the unit's appearance remains generally natural.

Solitude: The unit has broad expanses where a person can see completely across most of the unit. The terrain and vegetation do not provide one any significant degree of solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides some limited hunting and wildlife observation opportunities. The unit does not contain any outstanding features nor provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit possesses no documented supplemental values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the unit is generally of a natural appearance, it offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-57

Unit Name: Robinson Lake

Revision of Unit Boundaries: This unit contains 42,400 acres. It is divided into two subunits by BLM Road 7175. Both subunits are described below.

Subunit Number: 1-57A

Description

Size: 17,360 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: BLM Road 7175 on the west and south and a BLM road from north Flybee Lake to O'Keefe Reservoir on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit has somewhat rolling terrain on the west with broader flat areas in the remaining portions. The unit contains five fairly large lakebeds at Flynn, Robinson and Junction Lakes. The vegetation in the subunit is primarily big sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains seven miles of fenceline. The major five-mile section of generally north to south fence is paralleled by a broad vehicle way which is substantially noticeable throughout the central core of the subunit. It also contains approximately 13 miles of additional well defined vehicle ways which are substantially noticeable. Waterholes in Flynn, Robinson and Junction Lakes with associated ways are also substantially noticeable. The subunit does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature because the impacts of these developments are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit offers some degree of solitude. However, it does not have sufficient size relative to the topography to offer a visitor an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the subunit.

Recreation: This subunit offers moderate, but not outstanding potential for hunting. Backpacking and hiking are possible activities that could be engaged in on this subunit, but the amount of area free of the works of is so limited that the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural as the works of man are substantially noticeable. The unit also lacks potential for outstanding opporutnities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

SubUnit Number: 1-57B

Description

Size: 25,040 acres of public land. There is one state school section in the center of the unit.

Location: Approximately 35 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The majority of the south and east boundaries are defined by private land. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 7165, 7165C, 7175, W68 and a three mile segment of an unnumbered BLM road on the northeast corner of the unit.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains high desert sage uplands dissected by canyons. It includes Augustine, Dudes, Barber and Loggerhead canyons and their smaller tributaries. The canyons have high angle eroded slopes rather than vertical walls. The eastern boundary area contains numerous basalt rims up to several hundred feet high where the canyons open onto Clover Swale and Tucke Flat.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains twelve water developments, primarily located in the canyon bottoms at scattered locations. As the developments are quite dispersed, they remain substantially unnoticeable. The unit contains approximately 17 miles of defined vehicle ways. The ways north of Balls Lake and along and in Dudes Canyon present noticeable intrusions because of their locations within the particular landscapes and the amounts of use. The subunit also contains approximately 11 miles of fenceline which remains substantially unnoticeable. There are some localized detractions from naturalness, but the subunit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The majority of the acreage in the subunit is flat sagebrush uplands offering a relatively poor opportunity to experience solitude. The canyons in the unit provide greater isolation from others in the unit. They also tend to be concentrated use areas and generally lack features which would separate parties from one another, such as great distances or strong topographic relief. The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of these constraints.

Recreation: The subunit offers potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The canyons would offer values for hiking and sightseeing. The lack of water or aquatic habitat limits recreation values in the majority of the area. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit contains a number of man-made features but remains primarily affected by the forces of nature with man's works substantially unnoticeable. It offers a degree of solitude but it is not considered to be an outstanding opportunity. The opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited.

Unit Number: 1-58

Unit Name: Diablo Mountain

Description

Size: 113,120 acres of public land. There are 1,360 acres of private land in four inholdings in the west half of the unit.

Location: Five miles north of Paisley.

Boundaries: The west boundary is private land and County Road 4-17. The other boundaries are Highway 31 on the south and BLM Roads 6134, 6144 and 6104.

Physical Characteristics: This is a very large unit containing two different kinds of land forms. The west half, approximately 52,000 acres, is composed of the Summer Lake dry lakebed and the rolling sand dunes to the east of the lake. The eastern half of the unit is a series of uplifted blocks and rims rising in elevation to the east, with the high point being a long north-to-south rim containing Mount Diablo. The east edge of the Diablo Rim drops vertically approximately 1800 feet to the east boundary of the unit. Vegetation on the west side of the unit consists of salt tolerant species on the alkali flats and dune areas. As one moves east across the unit, the vegetation gradually changes to a sagebrush community as concentrations of wind-blown salts from Summer Lake decrease. All vegetation in the unit is very low. The overall visual impression of the area is one of drab coloration and very desolate country.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five water developments and two major ways which cross the unit from north to south. These developments and ways are substantially unnoticeable because of their location and condition. Approximately four miles of bladed road extending into a reservoir west of Sharp Peak are noticeable in the immediate area but of little consequence on the unit as a whole. The area remains in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The area clearly possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is the largest unit identified in the Lakeview District and represents a vast area of undeveloped land. It is a simple matter for a person to feel apart from the presence of others in the unit as the topography is rugged and one has a huge area to roam in.

Recreation: The unit has no potable water. Portions of unit have rugged topography. However, there are vast distances and little variety of terrain to traverse until one reaches the highest elevations of Diablo. This presents a less than outstanding opportunity for hiking and backpacking. A person on foot in the unit would be greatly challenged with very little in prospect of reward for the efforts involved. Portions of the unit on the east side with closer access to roads would offer some rewards for the primitive recreationist.

Supplemental Values: Though none are documented some archeological values may occur in the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 113,120-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation but remains natural in appearance and offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Unit Number: 1-59

Unit Name: Whiskey Mountain

Description

Size: 7,800 acres.

Location: East of Mt. Diablo.

Boundaries: BLM roads 6144-0-00 and 6144-0-A0.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains one fault block ridge with a steep escarpment on the east and a low-angle slope on the west. One small canyon cuts into the ridge near the center of the unit. There are several dry lakebeds along the valley bottom on the western perimeter. Low sage is the primary vegetation in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: Lakebed pits located near the west boundry of the unit have minor impacts on the unit. The majority of the unit is in a natural condition.

Solitude: The west portion of the unit contains a highly exposed slope. The unit is extremely narrow (maximum width one and one-half miles) and lacks screening. It would be difficult to be isolated from others within the unit.

Recreation: The narrow shape and small size of the unit preclude any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

Supplemental Value: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is generally free of the imprints of man. However, the unit offers poor opportunities for unconfined recreation and solitude.

Unit Number: 1-60

Unit Name: Coffee Lake

Description

Size: 6,440 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6104 and 6144.

Physical Characteristics: There is a north-south trending, east-facing basalt rim rising several hundred feet above the east boundary of the unit. From the top of the rim west, the unit consists of the downslope of a fault block formation. The unit is sage covered and offers only minor relief. The unit is seven miles long and from one-half to two miles wide.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains two lakebed pits on the northeast side of the unit. These pits have a minor visual impact, and the unit remains in an apparently natural condition.

Solitude: With the low relief, uplift slope making up the majority of the unit, the unit's small size, and its narrow configuration, there would be very little opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: Because of its small size and lack of any significant feature representing a recreation value, the unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural, but the narrow shape, small size and exposure of the unit does not allow for any degree of solitude. The area also lacks any significant recreation values of a primitive and unconfined nature.

Unit Number: 1-62

Unit Name: Whiskey Lake

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory the boundary between Units 1-62 and 1-63 was determined to be a way. As a result Unit 1-63 has been combined with 1-62.

Description

Size: 48,560 acres.

Location: Approximately ten miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6104, 6144 and 6184. A deadend road extends into the west side of the unit to a horsetrap. It is approximately three and one-half miles long. A second deadend road extends into a horsetrap on the north.

Physical Characteristics: The general elevation across the unit is about 5,000 feet. The highest point is Tough Peak at 5,625 feet near the northern boundary. The unit is a broad sage area of low rolling contours with some minor north-to-south trending rims. Approximately 30 ephemeral lake basins are located in the unit. Six of the basins have substantial pit water developments. The country is very open with a large field of view from almost anywhere in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 28 miles of vehicle ways used to maintain water developments and manage grazing in the unit. There are nine large lakebed pits. For the unit as a whole, the intrusions do not appear substantially noticeable in view of the size of the unit. A person traversing the area on foot, however, would repeatedly encounter the disturbances and might consider the unit marginal as to whether it met the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: The unit is of sufficient size that isolated areas would offer some degree of solitude. However, one would not be able to avoid the presence of others in the broad expanses of most of the unit. Because of the high degree of visibility, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit would present some opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. The lack of potable water within the unit and distances of repetitive rolling terrain with no features offering any degree of attraction to the recreationist represent a less than outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None documented in the unit although some archeological values may be associated with the numerous dry lake beds.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit meets the naturalness criteria to some degree. In broad view, it appears generally natural, but the works of man would not remain substantially unnoticeable to the user. The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude as one would be readily exposed to others within the unit. The unit does not offer any outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

Unit Number: 1-63

During the intensive inventory, the boundary between Units 1-62 and 1-63 was determined to be a way. As a result, Unit 1-63 has been conbined with 1-62.

Unit Number: 1-64

Unit Name: Twin Buttes

Description

Size: 22,080 acres.

Location: Fifteen miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6184, 6104 and 6194.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has generally flat to low rolling terrain, with minor rims at several locations within the unit. The most noticeable geographic feature is the northern butte of the Twin Buttes in the southwest corner of the unit. The unit contains several small dry lakebeds. The vegetation is a big sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains two minor ways leading to water developments and a small mining area on the eastern boundary. However, it remains in a generally natural condition unaffected by the works of man.

Solitude: Though there is minor topographic relief in portions of the northern end of the unit, the generally flat to rolling contours with no vegetation for screening leave a person exposed to the presence of others within the unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreaton: The unit has no outstanding features or points of interest which would focus visitor attention or present any outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Lakebeds in the unit may possess some archeological values, although none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the unit is in a generally natural condition, it does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. It is similar to other units in the surrounding region.

Unit Number: 1-65

Unit Name: Saunders Rim

Description

Size: Approximately 17,000 acres.

Location: About 17 miles north of Lake Abert.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains sage basins, a few low rolling hills, and rims. Saunders Rim is the most significant feature in the unit. It is located in the eastern portion of the unit and rises approximately 250 feet. There are three lakebeds in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness review.

Naturalness: The unit has four lakebed pits, a well, six miles of fence and a way. These intrusions do not significantly affect the naturalness of the unit. A 500 KV powerline located adjacent to the east boundary is substantially noticeable from approximately 20 percent of the unit. The majority of the unit is in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The unit provides only a minor degree of solitude because of small size, lack of significant topographic relief and absence of vegetative screening. One could not easily avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit has only minimal opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation. There are some opportunities for hunting and trapping but they are not outstanding.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the criteria for a wilderness study area. The unit is in a general natural condition; however, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation or solitude.

Unit Number: 1-67

Unit Name: Nub

Description

Size: 6,520 acres.

Location: About 13 miles north of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of sage flats with low hills offering slight topographic relief. There is one lakebed and four reservoirs in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three ways, one and one-fourth miles of fenceline, and four reservoirs in the unit. These intrusions are somewhat noticeable; however, the area appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The size of the unit, in conjunction with the topographic exposure and low vegetation, limits a person's opportunity for solitude. One could not experience outstanding solitude.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities are extremely limited within the unit. Hunting and trapping are the primary recreational activities; however, these values are not considered to be outstanding within the unit.

Supplemental Values: There may be archaeological sites in the unit, but none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the wilderness study area criteria. The unit appears relatively free from the imprints of man. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of the small size of the unit and limits of topography.

Unit Number: 1-71

Unit Name: Grays Butte

Description

Size: 25,040 acres.

Location: Immediately east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: The west boundary is Highway 395 and a road which crosses the highway on the southwest. The remaining boundaries are County Road 3-10 and BLM Roads 6165, 7155, 7155 A and 6125. In some of the areas the roads have been padded to assure access in construction, and, because of terrain, evidence of construction may not be obvious.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is long and narrow, running along the northern end of the Abert Rim north of Hogback Road. The unit is 20 miles long and from one to three miles wide. The main feature is a long stretch of the northern Abert Rim ending just north of Grays Butte. The entire unit above the rim is sagebrush flats one-half to one mile wide. On the west the flats are covered with a crested wheatgrass seeding east of Highway 395.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: The portions of the unit above the rim are in a generally natural condition, with the exception of six small reservoirs which are so dispersed as to be substantially unnoticeable. Those portions of the unit west of the rim are highly disturbed with crested wheatgrass seeding developments at the Highway Well rest area, and a developed cattle camp below Grays Butte on the north. The unit is heavily affected by the works of man on the west and does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: The unit offers no reasonable opportunity for solitude to the west of the rim with the immediate presence of Highway 395 and the existing developments which receive intensive use. Above the rim to the east, the flat terrain and narrow shape preclude any potential for a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers little other than hunting in the way of recreation potential. The cliffs are not suitable for rock climbing and the narrow nature of the unit leaves one so exposed to either the highway or other persons in the area that there is no unconfined area with recreation potential. The unit does have some scenic value, but this alone is not an opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit supports approximately 14 head of bighorn sheep.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is not in natural condition and lacks any potential for solitude. The potential for primitive recreation activities is also constrained.

Unit Number: 1-72

Unit Name: Juniper Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 11,760 acres. During the intensive inventory, two roads were identified which divide the unit into three subunits. Subunit B has 1,160 acres, and subunit C has approximately 4,160 acres. These subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-72A

Description

Size: 6,440 acres.

Location: Three miles east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM Roads. A two-mile deadend road extends into the subunit to the top of Juniper Mountain.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a large cone-shaped mountain rising from a sagebrush plain. The mountain has a dense cover of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the size criteria.

Naturalness: The entire subunit is dominated by the works of man and is not in a natural condition. It contains a large cattle camp development, four miles of ways, four reservoirs, and a wildlife guzzler. These features as well as a fenceline across the subunit dominate the area.

Solitude: The small size of the subunit and its exposure, even considering the juniper cover on the mountain, allow no significant degree of solitude anywhere in the subunit.

Recreation: The unit contains several types of wildlife and provides a vantage point from which to view the scenery of the surrounding country. However, the large number of human developments in the area prevents the recreation experience from being wilderness in character.

Supplemental Values: The unit may contain archeological values not yet documented and has high wildlife values, especially for birding.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit does not meet the criteria for naturalness, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-73

Unit Name: Packsaddle Draw

Description

Size: 18,680 acres.

Location: Eight miles east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6110, 6120 A and 6130. The eastern portion of 6110 is adjacent to private land, and some sections are in poor condition.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is located in moderately rolling terrain dropping off sharply in the eastern third to Dry Valley. The major geographic feature is Packsaddle Draw, which runs east to west through the center of the unit. The draw contains some prominent erosion features and basalt outcrops, but remains less than 100 feet deep. The western third of the unit is a much flatter sagebrush area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a fenced enclosure in the western corner which is substantially noticeable in much of the western third of the unit. The unit contains approximately 15 miles of vehicle ways. Nearly half of these ways are heavily used and their visibility through the unit makes them highly noticeable. There are five reservoirs in drainages which are significant features in small areas but do not create a substantial cumulative impact. It would be difficult for a visitor to avoid the cumulative presence of all the ways, fences and reservoirs. The works of man are substantially noticeable in the unit.

Solitude: Portions of Packsaddle Draw would offer a person some degree of solitude, but these areas are small and would not represent an outstanding opportunity. Because of the unit's narrow width (one to four miles) and topography and the general exposure across the unit, it does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. A person would be readily influenced by others within this unit.

Recreation: The draw area offers some potential for hiking and wildlife observation as well as hunting. The opportunities presented in the unit are not outstanding within the region.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some archeological values though not currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not remain primarily natural in appearance as the works of man are substantially noticeable throughout the unit. The unit also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-74

Unit Name: Juniper Creek

Description

Size: 23,280 acres.

Location: Approximately eight miles east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6110, 6155 D, 6165, 6185 and 7155.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is sagebrush covered rolling hills and draws with several small to medium-sized ephemeral lake beds. The highest point in the unit is Turpin Knoll, which rises a few hundred feet above the surrounding terrain. The eastern third of the unit contains one substantial broad draw known as Macs Draw and some low hills and ridges. There are no dramatic topographic features on the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately ten miles of fenceline and one fenced enclosure in the northwest corner of the unit. The unit contains 13 miles of vehicle ways. A major way listed as 6165 D on the district transportation plan is considerably noticeable of itself and has had sections maintained in the past. The unit contains 11 drainage reservoirs and one major lakebed water development. The south half of the unit and portions west of Turpin Knoll do not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature because the human developments are very evident. The northern half east of Turpin Knoll is generally natural in appearance.

Solitude: The topography provides limited degrees of solitude at some locations within the unit. These areas are not of sufficient size or quality to offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunities for hunting and very limited areas for pursuit of activities such as hiking or nature study. Within the unit there are no outstanding opportunities for recreational experiences of a primitive nature.

Supplemental Values: The area may have some archeological values, however none are presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition because the works of man are substantially noticeable. The area also lacks any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-75

Unit Name: Egan Cabin

Description

Size: 6,240 acres.

Location: Approximately 35 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155, 6165 and spurs of 6165.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a slightly rolling sage flat deeply cut by four drainages opening to the south into Kit Canyon. The north half of the unit is quite flat. The maximum canyon depth on the south end is approximately 300 feet. Vegetation in the unit is a sagebrush community with scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains three reservoirs and several small ways along the west side of the unit. There is minimal disturbance around the Egan Cabin area. The unit remains apparently natural and the works of man are not substantially noticeable in the unit.

Solitude: The canyons in the unit will provide a visitor to the unit with some degree of solitude. The small size of the unit and the limited extent to which the canyon system would shield one from the presence of others in the unit do not provide what could be considered an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The high degree of exposure on the majority of the unit is not offset by the qualities of the canyons.

Recreation: The unit would present an opportunity for hunting and wildlife observation with a limited opportunity for hiking the canyons. The exposure and small size of the unit would not allow for an outstanding opportunity to pursue primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Though the unit does offer some topographic screening, the opportunity for solitude would be limited by the size of the unit and is not outstanding. The unit also lacks what could be considered any outstanding opportunities to pursue primitive and unconfined recreation because of the same lack of sufficient size, and the high level of exposure to others in the unit.

Unit Number: 1-79

Unit Name: Balls Lake

Description

Size: 6,000 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre block of state land in the north end of the unit south of Balls Lake.

Location: 28 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7165 and 7165 B encircle the unit.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a sage flat with some low rolling terrain cut through in places by the upper reaches of Buckhorn Canyon. Within the unit the canyon constitutes a minor draw opening to the east boundary of the unit. Balls Lake occupies the northwest corner of the unit and contains two large lakebed pits.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: The lakebed pits in Balls Lake are considerably noticeable in the northern portion of the unit. In the west-central portion of the unit there is a way approximately two miles going to Central Reservoirs Number 1 and 2. The reservoirs are located in the draws forming the upper end of Buckhorn Canyon. The way and the reservoirs are substantially noticeable works of man in the interior of the unit. The southern half of the unit remains essentially natural.

Solitude: The draws offer some degree of solitude and isolation. The remaining flat and undulating portions of the unit do not present adequate means of avoiding the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides marginal opportunities for hiking, hunting and wildlife observation. The small size of the unit and lack of any significant feature of interest for recreation limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The northern half of the unit is not substantially free of the works of man. The unit is small and its topography and vegetation do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit also lacks any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation activities.

Unit Number: 1-80

Unit Name: Twin Lakes

Description

Size: 17,920 acres.

Location: Five miles northwest of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Vegetation is the unit is mainly big sagebrush and associated species. Topography consists of sage flats with low, rolling hills providing little topographic variation across the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: The unit contains five lakebed pits, four noticeable ways on the perimeters and a 1330-acre drilled seeding in the southeast corner. Twin Lakes Reservoir on the west side of the unit is a particularly noticeable development. This unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it is not primarily in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very limited because in most places a person can see completely across the unit. Under these circumstances, one could not avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: Recreation potential is severely limited by the size and exposure of the unit. Hunting potential is moderate on the unit. The area lacks features which might provide any exceptional recreation experience. The unit offers no outstanding recreational opportunities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear natural and free from the imprints of man's work. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-82

Unit Name: North Euchre Butte

Description

Size: 22,600 acres.

Location: Three miles north of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: The east boundary is BLM Road 7114 which also serves as a maintenance road for a BPA 500 KV D.C. powerline. The remaining boundary roads are BLM Roads 6114, 6104 and 6184.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit contains rolling terrain with moderately high broken basalt rims and draws. The general appearance of the unit is one of open, exposed sagebrush flats. There are ten ephemeral lake beds scattered through the unit, five of which have developed lakebed pits. The west side of the unit has approximately 4,000 acres of drilled seeding as the result of a fire rehabilitation project. The remaining vegetation on the unit is a sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The drilled seeding has a substantial effect on the west side of the unit and does not appear generally natural due to the drilling. A 500 KV powerline along the entire length of the east boundary is a significant impact on naturalness through approximately 40 percent of the unit on the east side. The unit also contains approximately ten miles of ways which go to several lakebeds in the unit with pit developments. The unit also contains seven miles of fenceline which run through the middle of the unit. The overall effect of all the works of man is that this unit does not appear generally natural; the works of man are very noticeable through the unit.

Solitude: The rolling contours in portions of the unit offer only a minimal opportunity for solitude. The remaining flat portions of the unit would not offer one an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others inthe unit. This unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some potential for hunting but would not provide any significant opportunities for other types of primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-85

Unit Name: Eagle Butte

Description

Size: 13,220 acres.

Location: Two and one-half miles south of Juniper Mountain.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7155, 7155 H, 6165 and 6165 C.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains sage flats and a few minor rolling hills which add slight topographic relief to the unit. Eagle Butte is a small butte in the southeast corner of the unit. There are eight ephemeral lake basins in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has six miles of ways which are not very noticeable and have not been maintained. A way going east to west across the unit was referred to as a road in a public comment. Field investigation found the route in poor condition showing no evidence of maintenance; it is still considered a way. There are 11 lakebed pits in the unit which vary in size and are scattered throughout the unit. The lakebed pits by Badger Hole Draw represent an imprint of man that is extremely evident. The 11 lakebed pits have significant cumulative effects because of the small size of the unit and the dispersion of the developments through the unit. The unit is not considered to meet the naturalness criteria as the works of man are very evident in the unit.

Solitude: The small size of the unit, its flat terrain and lack of vegetative screening preclude any opportunity for an outstanding feeling of solitude in the unit. A person could not avoid the sights and sounds of others in this unit.

Recreation: The unit has potential for hunting, trapping and wildlife observation but the opportunites are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Potential exists for archeologic values but none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature with the works of man substantially unnoticeable, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-86

Unit Name: Natural Corral Draw

Description

Size: 12,500 acres of public land. There is an inholding of 40 acres of private land in Sagehen Lake.

Location: Approximately 24 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6165, 6165 C, 6185 and 7155.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a sagebrush flat located two miles east of Juniper Mountain. There are nine ephemeral lake beds in the unit, the largest being Sagehen Lake. The unit has only low rolling hills to offer any topographic relief.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Ten lakebed pits present a significant impact on the unit, considering the concentration of development with relation to the size of the unit. Four ways and a spring development are not significantly noticeable because of the location and design of the projects. The impacts in the unit make it marginal in terms of naturalness because man's works are substantially noticeable in the unit.

Solitude: With the low vegetative cover, the moderate size of the unit and the lack of significant topographic relief, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. A person in the unit would be able to achieve some sense of solitude but only a very small group or low number of visitors could enter the unit and remain separate from others. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity.

Recreation: This unit is typical of the region as a whole and lacks any internal characteristics which would lead to an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation potential. The area would support some hunting activity, but is not well suited for backpacking or similar activity.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values are known though there may be some potential for archeological sites in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is marginal at best in meeting the criteria for natural condition and does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-87

Unit Name: Horseshoe Rim

Description

Size: 21,000 acres of public land. There are approximately 900 acres of private land in two locations near the boundary.

Location: Approximately 10 miles north of the Rabbit Hills.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit consists of low rolling sage covered hills. Portions of an ancient lakebed are located just west of the Sunstone Mine area. The unit contains two distinctive geologic features, Horseshoe Rim and the Horseshoe.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A way crosses the southeast corner of the unit and follows the dike of the ancient lakebed to Sherlock Reservoir. It is only a minor intrusion and is not very noticeable. The southern end of the unit has numerous jeep trails created by sunstone collectors. The majority of the unit appears generally natural, and free from the works of man.

Solitude: The unit does not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude. One would find it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others because the unit lacks significant topographic relief and vegetative cover. There is a limited opportunity for solitude in the Horseshoe Rim area.

Recreation: The unit provides opportunities for rockhounding, hunting and limited potential for hiking. With the exception of the Horseshoe Rim area the topography in this area is extremely flat and exposed, and does not offer outstanding opportunities. The Horseshoe Rim area on the eastern side of the unit is a somewhat interesting geologic feature, however, size and topography limit recreation potential in this area.

Supplemental Values: Archaeological values may exist in the area, though none are presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 1-88

Unit Name: Sunstone Mine North

Description

Size: 29,360 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre state inholding near the west boundary of the unit.

Location: 18 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155, 6155 D, 6165, 6195 and 7145.

Physical Characteristics: The west and south portions of the unit are low rolling sage hills and sage flats. The central and eastern portions of the unit consist of low hills and draws with rock rim exposures in portions of the draws. There is a rim several hundred feet high along the east edge of the unit. The unit contains three moderate sized dry lakebeds with several small ephemeral lakes scattered through the unit. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush and associated species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains seven water developments scattered through the unit. These reservoirs and lakebed pits are all substantially noticeable in a limited area around each development, but they do not significantly detract from the generally natural appearance of the unit as a whole. There are 14 miles of ways in the unit. The central portion of the unit contains one north-to-south way across the entire unit. This way is very visible for its entire length. The majority of the unit remains in an apparently natural condition. The developments are substantially unnoticeable because they are scattered and reasonably well screened by the topography.

Solitude: There are isolated areas in the unit where one could experience some degree of solitude. The highly exposed nature of the west and southern portions of the unit precludes any opportunity for solitude in these areas. The central and eastern portions, although offering some solitude, do not provide an outstanding opportunity. A person could avoid the presence of limited numbers of other people in the unit; however, anything above a very low visitor density would eliminate the solitude potential of the unit.

Recreation: The unit would offer some potential in the central and eastern sections for hiking and limited backpack trips. Portions of the area are scenic to some degree and would provide some points of interest. However, in the context of the larger region, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation experiences of a primitive and unconfined nature.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to have some archeological values, although none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit has some areas affected by man but remains generally in an apparent natural condition. Because of the limitations of topography over much of the unit, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. There are portions of the unit which would provide a limited opportunity for solitude, but not an outstanding potential. The area would offer limited recreation values for hiking, photography and wildlife observation but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-89

Unit Name: Bacon Camp

Description

Size: 5,560 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM roads number 6165D and 6155E.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is triangular in shape. The west side of the unit is a steep slope rising to a flat plateau in the center of the unit. The east and south portions are broken by rims and gulleys which descend to the bottom of Lynches Draw. Topographic relief in the unit amounts to several hundred feet of variation across the unit from west to east. Vegetation on the unit is big sagebrush.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets minimum requirements.

Naturalness: The unit has three moderate sized reservoirs in the northwest corner which have revegetated to a degree but are still substantially noticeable. There is a 200-acre sagebrush eradication project done in 1972 in Sections 31, 36 and 5 on the southwest side of the unit. The sagebrush kill remains substantially noticeable within the spray area. The majority of the unit outside of the listed areas remains in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The unit offers some topographic relief but on the flat plateau one would have difficulty avoiding the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The small size of the unit and its shape present a situation where most portions of the unit are fully exposed to the boundary areas, making any degree of solitude difficult to achieve. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers limited hunting potential which would generally be a vehicle associated activity in this area. The small size of the unit, limited topographic challenge, and exposure within the unit present only limited recreation potential. The unit does not offer outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit is in a natural condition. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size, the exposure of the user to others within the unit, and the lack of features which might provide a significant recreation experience.

Unit Number: 1-90

Unit Name: Sunrise Canyon

Description

Size: 4,880 acres.

Location: Approximatley 30 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155 and spurs.

Physical Characterisitcs: A ridgeline crosses the unit from north to south, where it breaks up on a basalt rim. The ridge is approximately 500 feet higher than the valleys to the east and west. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush with a few scattered juniper occuring on the north boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit does not meet the minimum size criterion, nor is it of sufficient size or appropriate shape to make practicable its preservation, use and management as wilderness.

Naturalness: The unit contains one reservoir and one and one-half mile of ways. A portion of the Kit Canyon seeding encroaches on the east side of the unit where it is a significant impact on the natural condition.

Solitude: The extremely narrow configuration of the unit in relation to its small size and minimal degree of topographic or vegetative cover precludes any opportunity for a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers only limited opportunities for hunting and exploration of the area on foot. It does not offer any outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not satisfy any of the size criteria. It also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because its small size and configuration leave one exposed to others throughout the unit.

Unit Number: 1-93

Unit Name: Spine Cob Butte

Description

Size: 11,000 acres of public land. The unit contains 720 acres of state inholdings in parcels in the center and northeast corner of the unit.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of Plush.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a high sage flat with minor canyons and draws in the north portion of the unit. Spine Cob Butte, a minor rock outcrop on a low rise, is the highest point in the unit. The unit contains two lakebeds. A third lakebed, larger than those within the unit, is located on a state inholding in the center of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three fairly large reservoirs in the south half of the unit. They are substantially noticeable throughout the south portion of the unit below Spine Cob Butte. The northern half of the unit appears generally natural as the works of man are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The broad flat expanses of the unit make it difficult for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. In addition the unit lacks the vegetation and the size which could provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Exposure is great over the majority of the unit and it offers no feature representing an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The unit does offer some opportunity for hunting, however, it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Some archeological values may exist, but none are yet documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is not substantially free of the works of man in the southern half. The flat topography and small size relative to the topography do not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit lacks any significant opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because a visitor would be apparent to others in the unit and there is no point or feature of reference representing an outstanding recreation potential.

Unit Number: 1-94

Unit Name: Poker Jim Flat

Description

Size: 14,360 acres of public land. The unit contains a 160 acre private inholding in the southwest corner.

Location: 24 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: The south boundary of the unit is defined by private land and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge land. Roads form the west boundary and the northeast boundary is BLM Road 7165A.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a triangular shaped piece of land on sage flats north of Bluejoint Dry Lake and below Poker Jim Rim. The remaining acreage is on a high sage flat above Poker Jim Rim and north of the Hart Mountain Refuge boundary. The portion of the rim dividing the unit is approximately 600 feet high. The land above and below the rim is very flat and sage covered. There is one dry lakebed in the unit near the east boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Above the rim a way runs through the unit for approximately four miles. A lakebed water hole is located in the southeast corner of the unit. There is a way crossing the lower portion of the unit just north of Bluejoint Lake. The unit also contains approximately one and one-half miles of fenceline near the south boundary. These developments are substantially noticeable and affect the border areas on the northeast and south of the unit. The majority of the unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: It is difficult to avoid the presence of others in the unit because of the low vegetation and lack of topographic relief both above and below the rim. The rim would prevent people on one part of the unit from affecting those in the other; however, neither part would offer any substantial degree of solitude. The unit, therefore, does not offer outstanding opportunities for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The Poker Jim Rim offers a highly interesting geologic and scenic feature; however, only a small portion of the rim occurs within the unit. The rim does not offer any physical recreation potential as the terrain within the unit is not very suitable for climbing or hiking activities. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation because of the small size of the sub-parts and the flat terrain on each.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains the geologic feature of the rim and potentially contains archeological values not presently recorded.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural. The area lacks any significant opportunity for solitude because of the absence of screening within either sub-part of the unit. The recreation potential on the unit is restricted to some scenic and potential geologic values for sightseeing. The unit does not offer any outstanding opporutnities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-95

Unit Name: ZX Ranch

Description

Size: 21,120 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre private inholding.

Location: Approximately three miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6134, 6124, or 51, County Road 4-20 and private lands.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains sage flats in the southern and western portions. The majority of the unit contains rolling hills and draws. The vegetative cover is representative of the sagebrush community. Desert saltbrush is found on the western portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains four lakebed pits, six miles of ways and approximately eight miles of fenceline. The impacts of man are not substantially noticeable within the majority of the unit because the developments are located on its periphery.

Solitude: The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its small size, lack of vegetative screening and exposure of an individual to others within the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers only limited hunting opportunities. Other recreational opportunities within the unit are extremely poor.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in a generally natural condition. However, it offers poor opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size and the unscreened exposure of visitors to others in the unit.

Unit Number: 1-96

Unit Name: Coglan Buttes

Description

Size: 32,000 acres.

Location: Four miles west of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: BLM roads and a county road. On the northwest portion of the unit, minor portions are defined by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes the steep cliffs of Coglan Buttes on the west border and broad, low-angle slopes descending toward Abert Lake to the east of the cliffs. The majority of the unit is broad sagebrush covered flats with very little topographic relief.

Naturalness: The unit contains 23 miles of ways. A way from the north boundary road to Shores Waterhole is not identified as a road but some blade work has been done. The way is also in very good condition. Shores Waterhole in Section 8 represents a substantial impact over an area of approximately 2,560 acres due to its large size. There are five water reservoirs, several watering stations, and a guzzler in the unit; collectively, these significantly impact the unit's naturalness. Also, the unit contains a radio repeater site. With the basically flat topography and the general exposure of all the listed intrusions, the unit is very marginal in meeting the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening the unit has only minimal potential for solitude. The cliffs of Coglan Buttes offer isolated sites where solitude could be achieved. The unit does not offer opportunities for outstanding solitude. It would be very difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers little opportunity for unconfined, primitive recreation with the exception of the Coglan Buttes area. The cliffs of Coglan Buttes offer some opportunity for birding, especially raptor observation in the spring months. The flats above the cliff have moderate hunting potential, but it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area would be expected to possess some archaeological and geological values, though none are presently identified.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not entirely meet the naturalness criteria and intrusions on naturalness are dispersed through the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude, nor primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-98

Unit Name: Abert Burn South

Description

Size: 18,200 acres.

Location: Five miles north of Valley Falls.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6154 and 6104 and State Highway 31 on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit essentially consists of a large fault block with a steep escarpment on the west. The eastern side of the unit contains a low angle slope falling away to the shore of Abert Lake on the east boundary. The unit is sagebrush covered, except for a crested wheatgrass seeding on the northeast. The topography consists of rugged rims and erosion features on the west with flat terrain on the eastern slopes. The slope is broken by minor erosion gullies.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: Approximately 2,400 acres in the northeast portion is part of the Abert Burn Seeding. The old Hotchkiss Road crosses the central portion of the unit with old cut banks in places and considerable scarring on the west. This unit also contains a gravel pit and way in Section 12 on the southwest. With the exposure across the eastern portion of the unit and the appearance of intrusions, the unit does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The buttes and side canyons on the west side of the unit do offer limited opportunities for solitude. The east side of the unit, with broad expanses of flat terrain with little vegetative cover or topographic relief, does not offer any real degree of solitude. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for wildlife observation, especially raptorial birds on the west side cliffs. The relatively small size in relation to the narrow shape of the unit limits the degree to which one could pursue activities such as backpacking and hiking. The unit does not offer outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to contain some archeological values though none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be in a primarily natural condition unaffected by the works of man because of the seeding in the north and ways in the central and southern portion. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited on the unit and are not considered outstanding in nature.

Unit Number: 1-101

Unit Name: Albert Rim

Description

Size: 22,880 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 280 acres in the south end of the unit near Colvin timber.

Location: Three miles northeast of Valley Falls.

Boundaries: The south and southwest boundaries are private land. The west boundary is Highway 395. The north boundary is a road associated with a 500 KV powerline. The remaining boundary is defined by BLM Roads 6135 and 6145.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a long narrow unit which encompasses the majority of the Abert Rim. The rim is a unique geologic feature representing the largest fault scarp in North America, rising more than 2,000 feet above Lake Abert. The majority of the unit is sagebrush flats above the rim. The unit contains Colvin Timbers, a remnant stand of ponderosa pine which is the northernmost timber in the Warner Mountains. The southeast portion contains some low basalt cliffs and drainages with juniper stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 17 stock reservoirs, three wildlife guzzlers, and three spring developments. The number of water developments presents a considerable cumulative impact. There is a large fencing project at Mule Lake which is strikingly apparent. A closed road runs south from Mule Lake for approximately three miles and has left a considerable scar though "put to bed" by the Bureau. In the Colvin Timbers area there are approximately nine miles of vehicle ways which are apparent due to the surface disturbance on this very rocky terrain. There are also two bladed dikes near the timber for water diversion. They are quite noticeable as man made features. The south half of the unit is very scenic country, however the imprints of mans works are readily noticeable and the unit above the rim does not appear generally natural.

Solitude: There are limited portions of the unit, notably along and west of Rabbit Creek, where terrain and vegetation allow for some degree of solitude. This opportunity, by itself, and the extremely narrow and exposed configuration of the remainder of the unit do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There is a trail up Poison Creek to the top of the rim which provides scenic vistas along the way. Use of this trail and trips along the rim would represent the most probable primitive recreational activities in the area. The unit offers hunting and wildlife observation opportunities as well.

Supplemental Values: The Abert Rim represents, as previously stated, the largest fault scarp in North America. The unit also contains archeologic sites and the stand of ponderosa at Colvin Timbers.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit possesses high scenic values and the rim is a one-of-a-kind feature. The Abert Rim has been designated as a scenic corridor to protect the qualities of the rim area. The unit has been disturbed by various developments and does not appear generally natural. The works of man are substantially noticeable. The unit also does not offer outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its extremely narrow configuration. Recreation values are present in the unit but concentrated in the scenic quality of Abert Rim and Colvin Timbers, which represents a rather limited opportunity.

Unit Number: 1-102

Unit Name: Binkie Lake

Description

Size: 13,440 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles north of Lakeview.

Boundaries: The east and north boundaries are a road associated with a Bonneville Power Administration 500 KV powerline. The west and south boundaries are BLM Roads 6135 and 6145.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a sagebrush covered flat which slopes slightly downward to the east. Twin Lakes and Binkie Lake are ephemeral lakes in shallow depression. The minor lake depressions are the only topographic relief of note in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains four short, yet obvious ways to water developments, 14 water developments, six pits, eight reservoirs. It is substantially affected by the 500 KV powerline running along the east side. The cumulative effects of these intrusions, given the size of the unit and its terrain, prevent this unit from meeting the naturalness criteria. The impacts of man's works are substantially noticeable throughout the unit and it does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The extremely flat nature of the unit, with its narrow configuration and lack of vegetation, leaves one obviously exposed to the sights and sounds of others in the unit and does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers potential for hunting, especially antelope, however, the nature of the unit severely limits potential for the backpacker, hiker or sightseer who wishes to pursue a primitive experience.

Supplemental Values: There is potential for archeological values on the unit, though no documentation currently exists.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit lacks natural characteristics because of the cumulative effects of the powerline and the large number of obvious imprints of the works of man in the unit. The unit is also lacking in outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-106

Unit Name: Flint Hills

Description

Size: 23,840 acres.

Location: The unit is located about 14 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM roads and Hogback Road.

Physical Characteristics: Flint Hills and Flint Ridge in the north portion of the unit are the major topographic features. They rise approximately 300 feet above the surrounding land. The remaining portion of the unit contains low, rolling hills and basins with sagebrush cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are eight ways and four small lakebed pits on the unit. These intrusions significantly impair the naturalness of the unit. The majority of the unit has been severely affected by the works of man.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening, one cannot avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: There is limited potential for hiking and hunting in the unit. Outstanding values for primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist within the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit has potential for archaeological values but none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate this unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit has been substantially affected by the works of man and does not meet the naturalness criteria. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation or solitude.

Unit Number: 1-108

Unit Name: Rabbit Hills

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 15,360 acres. During the intensive inventory roads were identified which divide the north end of the unit into five subunits, which include a total of 3,520 acres. None of the small subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria and none of them is described below.

Subunit Number: 1-108F

Description

Size: 11,840 acres.

Location: 17 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: The boundaries on the north, south and east are BLM roads. The eastern boundary is Hogback road. A road intrudes into the center of the subunit where it degenerates into a way.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit includes the Rabbit Hills and a portion of Rabbit Basin, a dry lakebed on the north. The Rabbit Hills rise approximately 900 feet above the surrounding sage flats. There are some interesting erosion features in the north which mark an ancient lake margin. The southern portions contain a gentle slope which descends to a basin between Rabbit and Coyote Hills. The vegative cover is big sage.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The intrusion road is substantially noticeable from the center portion of the subunit. There are three miles of ways in the northern portion of the subunit, two miles of fences, and a few stock watering tanks. These intrusions are all substantially unnoticeable. The majority of acreage within the subunit appears to be in a primarily natural condition.

Solitude: The gentle contours of the hills in the central portion of the subunit and low angle slopes on the south, in combination with the low vegetative cover and configuration, leave one exposed to the presence of other persons within the subunit. It is not possible to experience an outstanding opportunity for solitude within the subunit.

Recreation: There is a potential for rockhounding, hiking, and photography in the subunit. The opportunities for unconfined primitive recreation are not outstanding because the subunit is highly exposed, lacks scenic values and unique character.

Supplemental Values: The subunit does offer some value for rockhounding. The potential for archaeological values is also present.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of the topographic exposure and lack of vegetative screening.

Unit Number: 1-114

Unit Name: Warner Lakes

Description

Size: 33,680 acres.

Location: Approximately ten miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: County Road 3-16 on the west and County Road 3-11 on the south. The remaining boundaries of the unit are defined by private land or Fish and Wildlife Service property.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains Flagstaff Lake and four dry lakes to the north. The lakes are all ephemeral, Flagstaff Lake being the only one currently containing water. The land surrounding the lakes consists of hummocks, dunes and a maze of dry drainage channels between the lakebeds. The northern half of the unit is an alkali flat primarily vegetated with greasewood.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are minor ways at several locations within the unit which are readily washed out by storms because of the sandy conditions in the area. There is a way that is commonly used along the north boundary of Flagstaff Lake and is quite evident along its route. There is also a way into the north end of Turpin Lake. The area as a whole is not significantly affected by the works of man and remains in a primarily natural condition.

Solitude: The generally flat character of the unit, in combination with limited vegetative cover, limits the opportunity for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. It is possible for a person to see completely across the unit and any other persons in the unit would be observed.

Recreation: The pothole areas around the dry lakes might provide some opportunity for day hikes and nature study; however, the opportunity is not considered outstanding in this unit. It has been mentioned during the inventory of the unit, that were the lakes and intervening areas aquatic

habitat, the area would have very substantial recreation potential. The area has historically been a dry basin however, and periods of standing water in the basin have been brief in duration and rare in occurance. The unit is therefore not considered to possess outstanding recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: Potential for archeological values exists in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially in a natural condition. It does not, however, present an outstanding opportunity for solitude, as one could not avoid the presence of others in the unit. The unit is also lacking in opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-115

Unit Name: Guano Slough

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 106,480 acres. During the intensive inventory unit 115 was found to be divided by roads 7155 A and B into two subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-115A

Description

Size: Approximately 47,360 acres of public land. The subunit contains three full sections of state land and a 960 acre block of private land.

Location: The unit is adjacent to the east boundary of Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: Frenchglen Road and the boundary of Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 7185B, 7185C, 6176H and private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of sage flats on the east and low rolling hills with some small broken rims on the west. The highest point on the unit is Cox Butte which rises some 300 feet above the surrounding terrain. Vegetation on the unit is a big sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains nine major lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle ways. The overall appearance remains generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: With the flat to moderately rolling terrain in the unit and high visibility of persons moving within it, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit possesses no characteristic landscape feature or particular point of interest which would appeal to the general wilderness recreationist. The distances of rather monotonous landscape on the unit and general lack of potable water would not offer an outstanding recreation opportunity. The unit has a high potential for antelope hunting but this would not be considered a form of primitive recreation as practiced in the region because it depends on motor vehicles.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit appears in a generally natural condition, however outstanding opportunities are lacking for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 1-115B

Description

Size: Approximately 59,120 acres of public land. There are two complete sections of state inholdings and approximately 680 acres of small scattered tracts of private land near the south boundary. These tracts are all less than 120 acres in size.

Location: Adjacent to the east side of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: The west boundary is the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and BLM Road 6176A. The remaining boundaries are private and state lands, and BLM Roads 6176, 7185 and 7185C. BLM road 7185A from Cox Butte Waterhole to Socket Waterhole intrudes into the subunit for approximately eight and a half miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is essentially a very broad sage covered basin with little topographic relief. Guano Slough and Black Canyon cross the southern third of the subunit. Black Canyon is approximately six miles long, approximately 100 feet deep at the maximum and less than several hundred feet at the widest point. The canyon has vertical basalt walls along most of its length with several small size canyons. The subunit contains numerous ephemeral lakes. Most have been developed to provide stock water.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The dead-end road mentioned under boundaries is very noticeable. The subunit contains eight moderate to large lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle ways. There is an emergency airfield located near the south boundary. There is a small quarry site two miles west of Guano Reservoir. The man-made features have a minor cumulative impact on the unit; however they remain substantially unnoticeable because of the large size of the subunit.

Solitude: A person would have a feeling of desolation in the unit but the arrival of others in the area would be immediately noted. During peak activity periods such as hunting season, the location of other parties would be readily apparent. One could hike in Black Canyon and gain some sense of solitude but only extremely limited user capacity would allow for solitude. This subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The Black Canyon area is of some geologic interest and offers opportunity for wildlife observation, notably of cliff dwelling birds. However, the opportunity is not considered outstanding. The unit has vast and rather monotonous country with little or no potable water or shelter. Opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the unit are not considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Black Canyon is of some geologic interest and the area would be expected to contain some archeological sites though none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The area has a number of man-made features which detract from naturalness to some extent. However, the subunit does appear to be generally natural. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-117

Unit Name: Monument Flat

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 34,760 acres. During the intensive inventory it was found to be divided by a road into two subunits, both of which are described below. A portion of the dividing road has been closed because of erosion.

Subunit Number: 1-117A

Description

Size: 16,240 acres.

Location: Four miles north of Adel.

Boundaries: A 500 KV powerline road and private lands on the west. The remaining boundary is a wide bladed and ditched BLM road which has been closed over approximately four miles of length due to extreme erosion. The closed portion of this road constitutes an extreme impact on naturalness and is therefore described as a boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of this subunit is a high sage flat with minor depressions and drainages. The vegetation is sage and grasses with scattered juniper trees on the east and at several spring locations in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The 500 KV powerline defining the west boundary has a substantial impact on naturalness in that area. The subunit contains a fenceline, 14 miles of vehicle ways and nine livestock reservoirs which cumulatively detract considerably from the natural appearance of the area. The subunit is marginal in meeting the criteria for naturalness.

Solitude: The broad expanse of sage flats offers minimal solitude. The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The subunit offers only limited potential for primitive recreation. There are scenic views of the Warner Mountains outside the unit, but no significant scenic values within. The area would offer some potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The unit is not considered to offer outstanding potential for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental values: Some archeological values would be expected to be present, but none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This subunit is very marginal on meeting the naturalness criteria. It lacks outstanding opportunities to experience solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 1-117B

Description

Size: 18,520 acres.

Location: Immediately north of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary is State Highway 140. The east boundary is primarily private land with portions deliniated by County Road 3-10. The west boundary is a combination of BLM Roads 7105, 7142, the closed portion of Road 7142, and private and state land. The northwest corner is defined by private property. A deadend road intrudes from Vinyard Ranch to the microwave tower in the southeast corner of the subunit.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is fairly narrow, containing portions of sage covered Monument Flat on the west. The southern end drops abruptly into Deep Creek Canyon and contains a small canyon, Sweeney Canyon. The eastern portion contains Lynch's Rim, a dramatic fault scarp which rises some 1,300 feet above the Warner Valley and Warner Lakes. Above the rim and within the subunit there are minor basalt scarps and the vegetation is generally dense with juniper and aspen groves, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush and bitterbrush, with an understory of Idaho fescue. The subunit contains Indian, Crump and Cleland Springs. Cleland Springs is an enclosed and developed spring.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A closed road which is returning to a natural appearance leads to a microwave tower in the southeast corner of the subunit. The microwave tower represents the most apparent work of man in the subunit. The way into Cleland Spring and Development at Cleland is substantially noticeable, but only in the immediate area. The subunit also contains a TV repeater east of Cleland Springs. However, it is barely noticeable until the visitor is at the site. The topography and density of growth on the majority of the unit masks the works of man. The unit remains in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The topography and cover on the east and southern portions of the subunit offer outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Travel through the subunit offers one a true sense of isolation and closeness to a natural environment.

Recreation: The unit offers high potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The scenic values for photography and general hiker or backpacker are outstanding in character. Though the perimeter of the area is readily accessible, the terrain and character of the area provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit is known to contain archeologic materials, though detailed inventories have not been completed.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 18,520-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: This unit remains in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable and offers outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-118

Unit Name: Wakefield Cabin

Description

Size: 28,880 acres of public land. The unit contains 1,360 acres of private land in a single block near the center of the unit.

Location: Five miles west of Adel.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by State Highway 140 on the north, a road accompanying a 500 KV powerline on the east and County Road 3-14 and private land on the west. A deadend road about a mile and a half long enters the unit from the north and goes to Joe Lake. A second road approximately five and one-half miles long enters from the south and goes to the fenceline west of Big Lake. The road turns west and although portions have been bladed toward the west boundary area, the majority of the route is in very poor condition and is questionable on meeting the road definition.

Physical Description: The unit is located on a high plateau south of Oregon Highway 140. The unit has approximately four miles of Deep Creek Canyon passing through the northwest corner. The remaining portion of the unit consists of large sage flat surrounding Big Lake, a large ephemeral lake approximately 2,400 acres in size, with low juniper covered hills to the south and southwest. The southwest corner also contains some very low basalt rims and Juniper Lake.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 25 miles of vehicle ways and fifteen reservoirs. The reservoirs are substantially noticeable in the unit. The 500 KV powerline along the eastern border of the unit is a dominant feature over the vast majority of the unit. The unit also contains approximately 13 miles of fenceline which are substantially noticeable and other fences which pass through juniper areas and are not readily visible. With all of the listed intrusions and their scattered distribution this unit does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The vast majority of the unit is a large sage flat which offers practically no opportunity for solitude. The southwest portion of the unit with the small rims and juniper cover and the portions of the unit in Deep Creek Canyon do offer some opportunities for solitude. However, the areas offering solitude are restricted and the opportunities are not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit offers substantial opportunities for recreation in the Deep Creek area and on the southwest, but oportunities are limited to a very small area and they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers a high potential for archeological values though none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-120

Unit Name: Coleman Rim

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 11,280 acres. It is divided by a road into two subunits. Both subunits are discussed below.

Subunit Number: 1-120A

Description

Size: 6,160 acres.

Location: About five miles south of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6172 and W6 and County Road 3-15.

Physical Characteristics: The southwest portion of the subunit contains the Coleman Rim which consists of several fault block terraces rising in elevation from west to east. Elevation drops from south to north descending to the flats of Coleman Valley. Vegetation is sagebrush with scattered juniper. Topography is generally a downslope from south to north with minor variation in contour presenting an open slope over most of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The southern portion of the subunit is affected by two ways and two reservoirs in the central portion of the subunit. There are a number of reservoirs along the base of Coleman Rim which disturb the naturalness of that area. This subunit has a large number of developments for its size. It does not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This subunit offers some degree of solitude along the rims and in juniper stands. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its narrow shape and small size.

Recreation: The subunit offers a moderate opportunity for hunting. The potential for hiking and backpacking is limited by the narrow shape and size of the subunit.

Supplemental Values: The subunit has a potential for archaeological values; these have not been documented, though.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from review.

Rationale: This subunit does not appear to be essentially natural and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 1-120B

Size: 5,128 acres.

Location: About five miles south of Adel, Oregon

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6172 and W 6 and County Road 3-15.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is a generally unbroken slope descending from Coleman Rim to the south to the flat bottom of Coleman Valley. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush with some scattered juniper on the higher elevations in the southern part of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A way goes up Sucker Creek for about two miles and it is very visible. Except for this way the subunit appears to be in an essentially natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit consists of a gentle, west facing slope with little vegetative cover. Anyone on the slope is exposed to the sights and sounds of others in the subunit. It does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers limited opportunities for hunting and could be used for hiking and backpacking. The opportunities would not be outstanding because of the featureless topography and the shape and size of the area would confine the activity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit is generally natural but it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-124

Unit Name: Fish Canyon South

Description

Size: 8,160 acres.

Location: Ten miles northeast of Adel, Oregon.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6152 and 6132.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the unit is typical of the northern basin and range province. There is a fault block through the middle of the unit with a steep escarpment on the eastern side. Below the escarpment, there is a narrow basin. The western side dips gently to the southwest. The southern tip of the unit is big sage. Juniper stands are found on the eastern portion of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are four miles of ways and five small lakebed pits which do not have significant impacts on the unit. The lakebed pits are substantially noticeable in one section on the south of the unit. The remaining portion of the unit appears in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The unit does not have an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the limited amount of topographic and vegetative screening and the narrow shape of the unit. One would find it very difficult to be isolated from the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers potential for hiking, hunting and wildlife observation. However, the size and shape of the unit limit the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of mans work substantially unnoticeable. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of extreme exposure and limited size relative to conditions.

Unit Number: 1-125

Unit Name: Horsehead Lake

Description

Size: 12,000 acres.

Location: Eight and one half miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM roads and Oregon State Highway 140.

Physical Characterisitics: The topography of the unit is typical of the northern portion of the basin and range province with faulted lava flows leaving steep escarpments with flat plateaus between. The unit contains four north to south trending scarps. Fairy Flat is a large plateau area contained within the unit. The southeast portion of the unit is a sage flat located above Greaser Basin. The unit contains five dry lakebeds of significant size. Vegetation on the unit is primarily big sagebrush with stands of juniper along the rim.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria, being significantly affected by the works of man. There are six ways and numerous trails; cumulatively these have a substantial impact on the unit. There are eight reservoirs in the unit which are substantially noticeable and have a considerable impact on Fairy Flat. A 600-acre drilled seeding exists in the southwest portion of the unit and a 340-acre drilled seeding exists in the northwest portion of the unit. These seedings represent significant intrusion on naturalness.

Solitude: Portions of the unit may offer some minor degree of solitude. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. These opportunities are not outstanding within the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it is significantly impacted by the works of man. This unit does not offer outstanding solitude or unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-126/CA-020-1010

Unit Name: Coleman Valley/Macy Flat

Description

Size: This interstate unit contains approximately 36,700 acres of contiguous public lands; 23,640 acres in Oregon and 13,060 acres in Nevada. The public lands in Nevada are administered by the BLM district office in Susanville, California.

Location: The unit is located eight miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The north boundary is Oregon Highway 140. The west boundary in Oregon is BLM Road 6182 and County Road 3-15 which is designated as Nevada Highway 34 in the Susanville District. The east boundary is BLM 6102C in Oregon and becomes the Macy Flat Road in the Susanville District. The south boundary is defined by Nevada Highway 34 and the Macy Flat Road.

Physical Characteristics: The western side of the unit contains the flats of Coleman Valley. The unit rises sharply at a north to south trending fault scarp at the east side of Coleman Valley and the remaining portion consists of flat to low rolling topography on a gently descending dip slope to the east. Vegetation on the unit is primarily sagebrush with juniper with aspen stands in the higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 26 miles of bladed ways and roads on the Oregon side of the unit which significantly affect the northern part of the unit. The Nevada side contains approximately seven miles of minor ways and several small reservoirs which do not substantially affect the southern part of the unit. Joint evaluation of the unit by Susanville and Lakeview personnel determined that the norther part of the unit does not appear generally natural but that the Nevada side remains primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: There are minor areas near the rim on the western side of the unit which would provide some opportunity for solitude. The gently rolling to flat areas in the rest of the unit with little vegetation cover are not conducive to solitude, presenting poor opportunities to avoid the presence of others in the unit. The unit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The portions of the unit near the rim and "Rocky Canyon", a small side canyon which breaks the rim just south of the Nevada border, would provide some limited opportunity for hiking. The unit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit may contain some archaeologic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Joint evaluation by Lakeview and Susanville District personnel determined that the portion of the unit north of the Oregon-Nevada State Line does not remain in an apparently natural condition and the unit as a whole does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Preliminary Summary of Public Comments - California-Administered Portion: Comments concurred with the preliminary recommendation that the California portion of the interstate unit did not meet wilderness study area criteria. One comment addressed the area as meeting wilderness study area criteria especially when considered with the contiguous Oregon land and another addressed the presence of private land within the unit.

Unit Number: 1-127

Unit Name: Wool Lake

Description

Size: 5,360 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Adel.

Boundaries: The northern boundary of the unit is the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6152 and 6152 B. The roads are bladed roads currently in fair to poor condition because of high erosion in the area.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of broken rims and low angle slopes on the west and breaks onto a high flat plain to the east. The unit contains four ephemeral lakes, the largest of which is Wool Lake. The lakes are all shallow depressions. Cover on the unit is essentially sagebrush with junipers scattered along the rims.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: There are four ways into the unit and five substantial reservoir developments. Because of the small size of the unit these man-made features strongly impact the area. It is not relatively free of the works of man and does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit is very small and its vegetation and topography provide little screening. A visitor would have difficulty avoiding the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit would offer considerable opportunity for antelope hunting, however this would not be considered a primitive and unconfined recreational activity as normally practiced in the region. The unit is in a scenic area but the limitations of size and topography would restrict the opportunities for hiking or back packing. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area is reported to contain archeological values, but documentation has not been completed for the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature and man's works are apparent in the unit. The area also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-128

Unit Name: Long Lake

Description

Size: Approximately 9,000 acres.

Location: Approximately 10 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Road 6162, spurs and private lands. Private lands located in the southern portion of the unit isolate a narrow strip of BLM land between private land and the road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is a sage flat with low hills providing minor topographic relief. There are ten ephemeral lakes on this unit which occupy shallow depressions. Long Lake is the most significant and is dry over the majority of the bed.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains four miles of ways, five miles of fenceline and eight reservoirs. These man-made features are a significant intrusion on naturalness. This unit has obviously been affected by the works of man.

Solitude: The unit offers only a limited opportunity for solitude. The narrow shape and small size of the unit in conjunction with its topography and vegetation make it difficult for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hunting, hiking and horseback riding. These values are not considered outstanding within the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit has potential for archaeological values, but none have yet been documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This unit does not meet the wilderness study criteria. It does not appear in a natural condition, and it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-129

Unit Name: Jack Lake

Description

Size: 10,000 acres of public land. The unit has two inholdings of private land which total 480 acres.

Location: About 15 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is situated in flat sagebrush country below the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. There is minor topographic relief along faults. Seven ephemeral lakes are located in the unit; Jack Lake is the largest of these lakes. It is approximately three and one half miles long and one quarter mile wide.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 12 miles of ways and seven lake beds with numerous pits and dikes. These intrusions are substantially noticeable because of the small size and insufficient topographic relief of the unit.

Solitude: The topography and vegetative screening in conjunction with the relatively small size and narrow shape of the unit do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It would be difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area has low potential for hiking due to lack of topographic relief and exposure to works of man. There is very good hunting potential in the area, but it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are potential archaeological values in the areas surrounding the lakes. None have yet been recorded.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable within the unit, and it would not return to a natural condition without the use of power machinery. The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-130

Unit Name: Little Reservoir

Description

Size: 24,280 acres of public land. The unit contains three inholdings of state and private land totaling 1,680 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary of the unit is Oregon State Highway 140. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6122, 7136 and 6106.

Physical Characterisitcs: The majority of the unit is a broad sagebrush flat with a slight rise to Little Juniper Mountain in the north. There is a north to south fault scarp and a basin along Jack Creek on the east side of the unit which forms a broad bottomed valley approximately 5 miles in length and 1/2 mile wide. The unit contains two large lakebeds used as reservoirs. The unit drops off sharply into Greaser Basin. Cover on the unit is sagebrush with scattered junipers along Jack Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 18 miles of ways. With the spread of these ways across the unit they constitute a significant impact of man's works. There are seven reservoirs in the unit which cumulativily represent substantial evidence of the works of man, due to their size and distribution in the unit. This unit does not appear substantially free of the works of man.

Solitude: As a result of flat topography and low vegetative cover, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit does offer some opportunity for hunting, however, activities such as backpacking or hiking would be severely confined. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to contain some archeological values though none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: With the concentration of ways and reservoirs representing the evidence of man in this unit, it does not meet the wilderness criteria for naturalness. In addition the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-131

Unit Name: Clover Swale

Description

Size: 7,640 acres.

Location: Adjacent to the south boundary of the Hart Mountain Refuge.

Boundaries: The north boundary of the unit is the Hart Mountain Refuge. The south boundary is BLM Road 6106 C. The west boundary is private land. The east boundary is BLM Road W 73 which is a main road on the west side of Guano Valley.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains low rims and draws on the west side with flat uplands on the east side. The unit is generally sage cover with scattered juniper stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately two miles of fenceline, three miles of ways and three reservoirs. Two of the reservoirs in the unit are located in Clover Swale and are moderate in size but affect

only a small area of the unit due to topographic screening and regrowth of vegetation on the reservoirs. The intrusions of man in the unit are minimal and the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This unit is a relatively narrow strip of land running east to west below the refuge fenceline. With the flat terrain and broad draws with little vegetative cover or topographic relief in the unit, it would be difficult for a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit would offer opportunity for hunting and very limited opportunities for other types of primitive or unconfined recreation. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation due to limitations of size and configuration.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to present some archeological values, though none are presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This unit has minor impacts on naturalness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are constrained by size, topography and configuration of the unit; the opportunities are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-132

Unit Name: Guano Creek

Description

Size: 10,560 acres.

Location: One mile south of Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6106 and 6106 C.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains rolling hills and draws with minor rims bounding some of the draws. The drainage of Guano Creek forms a small canyon for approximately one and one-half miles and drops into a broad erosion basin with steep cliffs. The majority of the unit is elevated tablelands above and west of Guano Valley. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush with isolated stands of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: This unit contains approximately six miles of ways four small reservoirs and minor fenceline intrusions. These intrusions are not substantially noticeable due to topographic screening and the low visibility of the intrusions. The unit appears primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The small canyon along Guano Creek offers limited isolation for a small number of people. The majority of the unit with broad flat areas and little screening does not offer an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. Considering the small size of the unit relative to the exposure and the limited opportunity present in the small canyon, this unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, nature observation, photography and hunting are present on the unit. These opportunities, as presented in this unit are not considered outstanding in character, because

of the limited size of the unit and confined areas within the unit where opportunities might exist.

Supplemental Values: The unit has potential for archeological values, although not documented at present.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This unit does appear generally natural, however, it does notoffer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit size and configuration along with topography, severely limit the quality and degree of solitude and recreational opportunities.

Unit Number: 1-133

Unit Name: Guano Lake West

Description

Size: 13,480 acres.

Location: 16 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7136, 6126, and 6106.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit is triangular in shape, approximately five miles wide on the north narrowing to a point some nine miles to the south. The unit contains a dry lake basin on the northeast approximately three miles wide. The west side of the unit is a basalt upthrust known as Shirks Rim. The upthrust is approximately six miles long, one-half mile wide and approximately 500 feet high. The south end of the unit is broken rims and narrow basins. The east side of the unit is a rim which runs the length of the unit and drops off abruptly approximately 200 feet to the Guano Lake Basin.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately seven miles of ways around the ephemeral lake on the north. There are two reservoirs in the lake basin, but they are not substantially noticeable. The unit appears generally natural.

Solitude: The triangular shape of the unit in conjunction with the topography over the majority of the unit leaves a person very exposed to the presence of others within the unit. On the west side, the downslope of Shirks Rim is exposed to the west boundary area and would not allow an opportunity for solitude. The lake basin in the north, though isolated from the surrounding area, would not allow a person to avoid the sights and sounds of any others in this portion of the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit would offer some wildlife observation and hunting potential but it is not of an outstanding nature. The confined shape of the unit would constrain any hiking or backpacking opportunity. The unit offers no outstanding recreation opportunity.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized, though archeological values may occur.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural but due to the confines of shape and size in relation to topography, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-134

Unit Name: Lone Grave Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 25,440 acres of public land. Road 6106 B was identified during the intensive inventory and it divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A contains 3,360 acres, it does not meet any of the size criteria and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 1-134B

Description

Size: 22,080 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6106 B, 6106 C and 6176. The north and much of the west boundaries of the unit are private lands and the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge.

Physical Characteristics: Observed from the boundary areas, the unit seems very flat. However, there are broken rims with large flats of different elevations and small hills in the unit. The most prominent feature of the unit is Lone Grave Butte, which rises to an elevation of 6510 feet. The unit is long and narrow and rises gradually in elevation from south to north. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush community. The southern portion of the unit has very sandy soils. Toward the north end the surface becomes basalt tableland with many rocks and boulders.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are four ways in the unit which total approximtely 13 miles in length. These ways are substantially unnoticeable as they are not visible from any significant distance. The unit appears generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The most noticeable man-made feature is a fenceline which runs up the south slope of Lone Grave Butte for approximately two miles.

Solitude: With the somewhat broken terrain within the unit there is some opportunity for a visitor to find solitude. The broad expanses between elevation changes on the unit and the relatively narrow shape of the unit does leave one exposed to other persons in the unit. Though some opportunity for avoiding the sights and sounds of others does exist, it is not judged as outstanding within the region.

Recreation: The unit is actively used during the big game hunting seasons and is heavily trapped. These activities are motor vehicle related recreation as practiced in this region. The opportunity for some hiking and wildlife observation does exist in the unit, but is not considered as an outstanding opportunity within the unit. Lone Grave Butte would appear as the most likely point of interest from the recreationist standpoint in the unit and this portion of the unit is very close to the east boundary road which receives very heavy traffic. The unit is not considered to offer outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation activities.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is generally natural in appearance. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. It also lacks any identifiable opportunity for an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreational experience.

Unit Number: 1-135

Unit Name: Guano Lake

Description

Size: 11,680 acres of public land and 320 acres of private inholdings.

Location: About 18 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads, 6126, 6106B, 6176, 6106A and private land. There are four deadend roads totaling about seven miles in length in the northwest section of the unit, which have been bladed and are presently in good condition.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a dry lakebed. The northeastern portion of the unit has some low hills. Guano Lake in the western portion of the unit is an ephemeral lake approximately four miles long and one half mile wide. The vegetative cover is sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The intrusion roads have a major impact in the northeast. In the western portion of the unit, there are five and a half miles of ways and a well. The way appears to be unobtrusive due to method of construction, design, and regrowth of vegetation. The well has very minimal impacts due to its small size. Approximately 50 percent of the unit has been affected by the works of man. The remaining portion of the unit appears in a general natural condition.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The generally flat terrain, low vegetative cover and small size leaves one exposed to others in the unit. The unit does not contain secluded spots where one can experience isolation.

Recreation: The large, flat expanses of the unit do not provide any suitable opportunities to engage in primitive forms of recreation.

Supplemental Values: There are some potential archaeological values, though none have yet been documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is marginal in meeting the naturalness criteria as approximately 50 percent of the unit has been affected by substantially noticeable works of man. The small size of the unit and the flat, sage covered terrain do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-136

Unit Name: Beatys Butte

Description

Size: 5,580 acres of public land; 160 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6196, 6166 A, 6176 and private land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is hilly rugged terrain. The western edge of the unit has low rolling hills which become sage flats towards the boundary. Sagebrush is the primary vegetative cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit is in a generally natural condition and appears affected primarily by the forces of nature. Hood Spring is located near the eastern boundary of the unit. It is substantially unnoticeable and does not have a significant impact on the unit. There is a minor way in the northwest corner of the unit.

Solitude: The unit offers moderate opportunities for solitude. Due to the relatively small size, private inholding and lack of vegetative screening, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit offers potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. These opportunities are limited by the small size and private inholdings.

Supplemental Values: The unit has a potential for archaeological values, though none are presently recorded.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit meets the criteria for naturalness. It does not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude due to the small size of the unit, and exposure of visitors to others in the unit. It offers only minor primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

Unit Number: 1-137

Unit Name: Mahogany Mountain

Description

Size: 8,000 acres of public land. There is a 40 acre inholding of private land at Rock Springs Camp.

Location: 24 miles east of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6166, 6176, 6196 and 7106. The roads are maintained two-track roads on north, east and south; the west road is a well bladed and drained high-use road to Beaty Butte.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains low rolling hills on the west which steadily rise to the east toward Shirks Lookout and Mahogany Mountain. The low elevation in the unit is approximately 5,000 feet with the high point being Mahogany Mountain at 7,140 feet. The unit contains steep sided hills and draws with broad exposures and low vegetative cover. The unit is essentially sagebrush covered with minor stands of mountain mahogany on Mahogany Mountain. There is one scenic canyon approximately three-quarters of a mile in length north of Rock Spring Camp.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: The unit contains three and one half miles of ways and four miles of fenceline. The unit also contains two small reservoirs. These man-made features are noticeable through approximately 30 percent of the area on the unit. Development at Rock Spring Camp, though on private land, has a significant impact on portions of the unit. This unit appears generally natural on the north and east, however much of the western and southern portions of the unit do not remain in a natural condition.

Solitude: The steep hills in the unit in conjunction with the low vegetation tend to give an effect of leaving one highly exposed to others in large portions of the unit. It is very difficult in spite of the topography on the unit to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers potential for hiking, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. With the confining element of small size and exposure to others within the unit, it would be difficult to find a truly primitive and unconfined experience on the unit. Recreation opportunities on the unit are not considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized on the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: A considerable portion of the unit shows effects of the works of man and is not apparently in a natural condition. The unit also lacks any outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The area also does not provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-138

Unit Name: Buckaroo Pass

Description

Size: 12,640 acres.

Location: Four miles south of Beatys Butte.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6176, 7106, 6156 and 7116.

Physical Characteristics: The central portion of the unit is broken topography with minor peaks and rims falling away to the east and west to sagebrush valleys. The elevation in the center of the unit is slightly above 6,000 feet and the valleys on either side are near 5,000 feet. The contours of the slopes in the unit are moderate with some minor rims. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has one spring development and one reservoir which is noticeable only in the immediate area of the development. The unit remains essentially free of the works of man and primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The moderate slopes on the unit in conjunction with the low vegetative cover would leave one very exposed to others on the same side of the unit over a great distance. The unit does not leave a person with the feeling that he could readily avoid others from anywhere in the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers a limited opportunity for day use hiking and some scenic vistas of the surrounding country. Because of its small size the unit does not provide for an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation experience.

Supplemental Values: None are presently recognized, although some archeologic values may be present and undocumented currently.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the unit remains in a generally natural condition, the small size of the unit, in conjunction with the topography and exposure, does not offer opportunities for outstanding solitude or outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-139

Unit Name: Spaulding Reservoir

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 70,360 acres of public land. Road 6176 B on the east side of the unit was identified during the intensive inventory and it divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A contains 4,640 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 1-139B

Description

Size: 65,720 acres of public land. The unit contains 440 acres of private land in three tracts. The largest single tract is the Spaulding Ranch property on the northwest of the unit.

Location: Approximately 18 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: State Highway 140 on the southwest, and BLM Roads 6176, 7116, 6156 A, 6176 B, 6176 C, 6116 A, and 6136. The Bureau roads vary from two-track roads across flat areas, to highly developed Road 6176, the main Beaty Butte Road. A deadend road, approximately five miles long, runs into Spaulding reservoir in the northwest area of the subunit.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit offers a considerable variety of terrain. The southern portion is a broad sage flat located east of and above the Guano Rim, a 450 foot fault scarp which runs north through the subunit for approximately 12 miles. The central portion consists of rolling topography divided by the northward trending Sage Hen Canyon. This canyon starts as a small stream drainage on the south central portion of the subunit and travels north increasing in depth to Spaulding Reservoir, a distance of approximately five miles. The northern and northeast portions contain broken rims, plateaus and prominant erosion features. The subunit contains approximately twenty ephemeral lakebeds, six of which contain lakebed pits. The far western side is located below the Guano Rim and contains sage flats and rolling sandy terrain toward the north. Vegetation is sagebrush with stands of willow and aspen below the rims on the east and north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The subunit contains nine lakebed waterholes and three reservoirs; most of the reservoirs are fairly small and not noticeable from any distance. The most significant impact is Spaulding Reservoir and the intrusion road leading to it. This reservoir sits in a basin in the center of the unit, but is not dramatically visible as a man-made reservoir until one is quite near the impoundment. Due to the terrain in the area, one would also have to be quite close to the intrusion road before noticing any significant impact. There is one developed spring on the north end of the unit with a way leading to it and a second developed spring in Section 32, T 39 S., R. 29 E. There are two vehicle ways on the southwest of the unit. One is the old Wagonside Road which is barely discernable. The second is a way from private land in Section 7, T. 40 S., R. 29 E., which travels northwest to the flats below Guano Rim in Section 27, T. 39, S., R. 28 E. The second way is more traveled and goes to several waterholes. It is substantially unnoticeable. Although there are a number of man-made features in the unit, their appearance, the large size of the unit, the topography

involved and the dispersion of these features through the unit with large distances between, leaves the unit with a generally natural appearance with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Because of its large size and the wide variety of topography where isolation would be easily achieved, this unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. A person within the unit could readily isolate himself from others, and a large number of persons could occupy the various regions of the unit without making contact. The southwest flats would offer the least opportunity for solitude, but the size of that area could offer some degree of solitude.

Recreation: The diversity of the unit is a key element in providing recreation potential in this unit. The area offers opportunity for hunting over the majority of the unit with the broken country on the east and north offering the best opportunity for non-vehicle hunters. The canyons and broken country in the central and eastern portions of the unit offer outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking. The limit on recreation during the later part of the year would be potential lack of water in the unit. The unit offers high potential for wildlife observation. Scenic values from many portions of the unit are high.

Supplemental Values: The unit is known to possess historic and archaeological values, though a formal inventory has not been completed.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 65,720 acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit has a generally natural appearance with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude over a majority of the unit in that one could readily avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit offers outstanding potential for primitive and unconfined recreation such as sightseeing, wildlife observation and hunting, hiking and backpacking. The key element in the unit is a high diversity of character and opportunity.

Unit Number: 1-140

Unit Name: Sagehen Spring

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 13,440 acres of public land. It is divided by BLM Road 6136 into two subunits. Subunit 1-140A contains 4,040 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-140B

Description

Size: 9,400 acres.

Location: 25 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6136, 6116 and State Highway 140.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains sage flats and low rolling terrain with minor stream drainages. On the east side a small canyon exits to the east at Sagehen Spring on private land. There is one extended slope paralleling Road 6116 along the east side of the subunit which drops off to Sage Hen Flats to the east. There are two developed springs in the northwest corner of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one short way and spring development in the northwest corner of the subunit which is not substantially noticeable. The subunit as a whole retains a generally natural condition with the imprints of mans works substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit has only gently rolling contours in some limited areas to screen one from the sights and sounds of others in the subunit. With its topography the subunit is not large enough to provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Hunting and trapping are potential recreation uses of this area and limited hiking and horseback riding for pleasure could be undertaken. The opportunities for these recreation activities are not outstanding on this unit due to the limitations of size.

Supplemental Values: The occurrence of springs in the unit is a supplemental value in this region.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This subunit is generally natural. However, because of its size and the limited diversity in topography, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-142

Unit Name: Wilson Spring

Description

Size: 16,040 acres of public land. There are 240 acres of private inholdings.

Location: About one and one-half miles east of Beatty Butte.

Boundaries: BLM roads 7106, 6156 and 6166. These roads have been bladed and maintained for the most part and are in fair to good condition. However, portions of roads 6166 and 7106 (Wilson Spring to Mudhole Spring) are currently in poor to fair condition with several washouts and gullies in the road.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit contains steep hilly terrain with several stream drainages. The eastern side of the unit gradually descends into Ryegrass Valley. The western edge of the unit contains high angled exposed slopes. There are draws around the south, north and western edges of the unit. The vegatative cover is sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has eight developed springs and two reservoirs. These developments are not very noticeable due to the topographic screening around each individual spring and reservoir. The unit appears primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit has some secluded spots where one can be isolated from others. However, the steep hills in the western and central portion of the unit have highly exposed slopes and low vegetative cover. One would find it difficult to avoid others in the unit. The eastern side of the unit is low rolling flatlands with low vegetation which does not provide adequate screening from others. The unit does not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude, due to the small size and lack of screening from others.

Recreation: The unit has some potential for hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. The unit does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the small size which limits the user potential.

Supplemental Value: The unit has a potential for archaeological values, though none are yet documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be free from the imprints of man and in agenerally natural condition. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude and unconfined recreation due to the small size and exposure to other users within the unit.

Unit Number: 1-143

Unit Name: Ryegrass Valley

Description

Size: 31,880 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6176, 6156, and 6176 D.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a broad sage basin known as Ryegras Valley. The major geographic feature is a large dry lake bed known as Shallow Lake. There are low hills and ridges to the northwest of Shallow Lake which provide the major topographic relief in the unit. Contours are minimal on the unit to the degree that from the west one can readily see across the entire unit. Vegetation is a sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five small reservoirs, one lakebed pit and approximately five miles of relatively unnoticeable ways. The unit appears in a generally natural condition as none of the man-made features are visible from any significant distance.

Solitude: Although the unit is of considerable size, the area is very flat and one can see across most, if not all, of the unit from any particualar point. There is a slight amount of variation in topography in the northern part of the unit which might offer some solitude, but this portion of the unit is also a narrow segment extending from the main body of the unit. The unit could not support many visitors at one time and offer an opportunity for them to avoid the presence of others in the unit. It does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The wide and exposed sage flats in the unit do not offer an area condusive to an outstanding recreation experience such as backpacking or hiking. The monotony of the landscape in traversing the unit on foot in conjunction with lack of water would not represent an outstanding opportunity. The area does offer opportunities for hunters although in this region this would be a vehicle related activity. The unit offers no feature which would represent an outstanding recreation opportunity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in an apparently natural condition but the broad expanses of sage flat in the majority of the unit do not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit also lacks any feature or characteristic which would represent an outstanding recreation opportunity.

Unit Number: 1-144

Unit Name: Bald Mountain

Description

Size: 14,040 acres.

Location: Approximately 35 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6176, 6176 D and 6126 B.

Physical Characteristics: The south half of the unit is a low angle slope rising to the north with minor drainage depressions. The highest point in the unit is Bald Mountain, a domed prominence on the southeast portion of the unit. There is a ridgeline running east to west which tends to divide the unit into south and north halves. The northern portion falls away abruptly with minor rims, draws and broken contours. This north half contains an elevation drop of approximately 1,000 feet over a two mile distance. Vegetative cover on the unit is sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The northern half of the unit contains three reservoirs with ways leading to them from the north boundary road. There are two reservoirs located near the boundary areas in the south half of the unit. The way going to Shelby Reservoir continues up the hill to a seep on the hillside. These ways and reservoirs are somewhat noticeable from higher elevations within the unit but the area still retains a primarily natural appearance.

Solitude: The southern half of the unit with gentle slopes and lack of cover does not offer an opportunity for solitude from others in the south half of the unit. The north half of the unit, with more broken terrain, does offer some marginal opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The restricted size of these secluded portions is less than adequate to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for wildlife observation, hunting and to a limited degree for hiking on the northern portion. Because of the limited size of the area of potential interest and the lack of any significant recreation values of particular note, the area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitve and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized, although the unit may contain undocumented archeological values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit has some man-made features which are noticeable but retains a generally natural appearance. The unit offers only a limited opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. These opportunities are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-145

Unit Name: Sagehen Flat

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit is divided by Road 6176 B identified during the intensive inventory into subunits 145A and 145B. The subunits are similar in character, so the entire unit is described below.

Description

Size: Subunit 1-145A contains 7,620 acres, and subunit 145B contains 8,095 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: Boundaries of the subunit are BLM roads 6176, 6176 B, 6176 C and 6116.

Physical Characteristics: The entire unit is a low sagebrush flat. The unit contains two shallow ephermal lakebeds. There are two large lakebed pits in the unit at Dixson Reservoir and adjacent to Road 6176 in Section 25 on the northeast.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Both subunits meet the size requirements.

Naturalness: Dixson Reservoir is located on the road between the subunits. Because of the extremely flat nature of the unit, the large mound at the north end of the reservoir is visible for a considerable great distance within both subunits. A large reservoir in Section 25 in the northeast corner of 145A is also very noticeable over a large area. Most of the unit, particularly the northern part, remains in a natural condition. Therefore, the unit is judged primarily affected by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The extremely flat terrain in the unit and the very low sage cover make it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in this unit. The size of the unit is also insufficient, considering the flat terrain, to provide opportunities to escape the presence of others. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This extremely flat and exposed area does not offer any outstanding potential for hiking, hunting or other primitive forms of recreation.

Supplemental Values: None identified.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate unit from further review.

Rationale: The unit is extremely flat and offers no cover for a person to obtain solitude. The unit also lacks any significant recreation potential. The southern half of the unit borders on being affected primarily by the works of man.

Unit Number: 1-146

Unit Name: Hawksie Walksie

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 81,440 acres. During the intensive inventory it was found that a road divides it into two major subunits, which are described below. An additional 760-acre subunit in T. 41 S., R. 29 E., Sections 2, 3, 4 and 10 does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-146A

Description

Size: 72,160 acres of public land in the Lakeview and Burns BLM districts. The unit contains two state inholdings of 640 acres each.

Location: Along the Oregon, Nevada border approximately 36 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary is the Nevada state line, which in this area is also the boundary of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range. The adjacent lands in the refuge have been proposed for wilderness designation by the Fish and Wildlife Service. There is a two and a half mile deadend road into a dismantled horsetrap in the northwest portion of the subunit. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6176A, 6176, 6126.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a large basin ringed by hills on the west, north and east and open to the south. There is a large ephemeral lakebed in the basin known as Hawksie Walksie. The northeastern portion of the unit includes Hawk Mountain (elevation 7,000 ft.) and Lone Juniper Mountain just south in Hawk Mountain. The eastern part of the unit is rolling hills with some minor rims. Vegetation on the unit is a big sagebrush community with sparsely scattered junipers on the higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five lakebed pits which are noticeable only in the immediate area of the development. There are 16 miles of vehicle ways in the unit which remain substantially unnoticeable due to terrain and condition of the trails. One segment of way north of Hawksie Walksie has been bladed at some time in the past and has caused a bad erosion scar for approximately one-half mile. This segment does not appear to have been maintained to assure relatively regular and continuous use and is not classed as a road. There is a reservoir and tank water development in Section 19 in the north end of the subunit but this development remains substantially unnoticeable. There is a 3,800 acre seeding in Hawk Valley on the northern boundary of this subunit. The seeding is a substantially noticeable impact of human activity. Because of the scattered locations of developments and large size of the subunit, it appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The rim of high hills which surrounds this basin provides a tangible feeling of isolation and solitude within the subunit. The rolling hills and peaks of Hawk Mountain and Lone Juniper Mountain provide ample opportunity to experience solitude. The subunit provides outstanding potential for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: Though the flats of Hawksie Walksie present little challenge or potential of themselves, the surrounding hills and peaks offer ample opportunity for hiking and back packing. The unit provides some variety in color and landscape features which adds to the scenic qualities in the area. The unit does offer high potential for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The subunit does contain archeological values although formal inventories have not been conducted. The presence of Sheldon Antelope Range and the proposed wilderness adjacent to this subunit supplement the values of this subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 68,360-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 3,800 acres in Hawk Valley which are not natural.

Rationale: The subunit remains generally natural in appearance except for the seeding which is excluded from the proposed wilderness study area. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and for backpacking, hiking, photography and wildlife observation. The supplemental value of its location contiguous to the Sheldon Antelope Range Wilderness Proposal is also significant.

Subunit Number: 1-146B

Description

Size: 8,520 acres.

Location: 36 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary is the Nevada State Line which is also the Sheldon Antelope Range boundary. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6176, 6176A and 6126A.

Physical Characteristics: Primarily low rolling hills with big sagebrush cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one vehicle way which is barely discernable on the ground. The unit remains in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers some degree of solitude but the potential is not considered outstanding. When evaluated as a portion of the adjacent lands in Nevada, the opportunities would be outstanding.

Recreation: This subunit offers some potential for hiking, hunting and wildlife observation. In the Oregon subunit alone, the opportunities are not outstanding; but when the Oregon area is considered along with the adjacent acreage in Nevada which is a proposed wilderness area, there would be outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The subunit is contiguous to the Sage Hen Hills portion of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range proposed wilderness. The potential value of this subunit as an addition to the Sheldon proposal is the most significant element of the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 8,520-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The subunit is essentially natural, with substantially unnoticeable developments. The size, configuration and topography of the subunit limit the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation which would be available in this subunit alone. However, when the subunit is considered in conjunction with the adjacent Sage Hen Hills proposed wilderness area the opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-148

Unit Name: Miller Creek

Description

Size: 6,480 acres.

Location: Approximately one mile west of Gerber Reservoir.

Boundaries: The west boundary is private land. The north and east boundaries are well maintained cinder roads. The south boundary is the Schnipps Valley Road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a relatively flat plateau cut by Miller Creek Canyon. Miller Creek Canyon is a deep canyon with basalt cliffs. The canyon runs the full length of the unit and is approximately 300-400 yards wide. The unit has sage flats, as well as juniper and ponderosa pine near the canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The southern half of the unit below Miller Creek contains Big Adobe Reservoir. A large area north of Big Adobe Reservoir has been severely affected by blading of channels to drain water into the reservoir. There is a bladed way and fenceline immediately south of Miller Creek on the east. The northern portion of the unit contains five miles of ways, two fencelines, and two unobtrusive water developments. The cumulative impacts of man's works are substantially noticeable, and the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: The small size, general flat terrain, and lack of substantial vegetative cover prevent one from escaping the sights and sounds of others in the majority of the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunity for hunting, hiking, wildlife observation and photography. These opportunities are not outstanding within this unit.

Supplemental Values: Miller Creek is a scenic drainage which has high aesthetic values. It offers good opportunities for wild life observation. There is potential for archaeological sites in the unit; but have not yet been documented

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it has been affected by the works of man. A confined portion of the unit in Miller Creek offers some solitude and recreational potential; however, the opportunities are severely restricted and are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-149

Unit Name: Bumpheads

Description

Size: 18,560 acres of public land; 320 acres of State inholdings.

Location: Four miles south of Gerber Reservoir.

Boundaries: BLM roads and private lands. A number of deadend roads intrude from the perimeter into the unit.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit contains large flat areas with a few low rolling hills which add slight topographic variation. Woolen Canyon and The Bumpheads are significant geologic features in the unit. The Bumpheads are basalt outcrops adjacent to Bumpheads Reservoir. Copeland and Bumphead Reservoirs are both large reservoirs in the unit, approximately 200 acres each. The vegetation of the unit consists of low sage with juniper and ponderosa pine in isolated stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 27 miles of ways and intrusion roads and ten miles of fenceline. Bumphead, Copeland and Dog Hollow Reservoirs represent significant evidence of man's activities within the unit. The large number of roads and ways, as well as reservoirs, are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: One cannot experience outstanding solitude within the unit. The majority of the terrain is flat and lacks screening or other features which would allow one to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities are extremely poor within this unit because of the lack of natural conditions in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear in a generally natural condition as the imprints of mans work are substantial noticeable. In addition, it does not offer outstanding opportuntiies for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-155

Unit Name: Swan Lake Rim

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 8,760 acres. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the subunits contain less than 6,000 acres (A with 2,440 acres; C with 160 acres and D with 680 acres) and do not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-155B

Description

Size: 5,480 acres.

Location: One-half mile north of Dairy.

Boundaries: The north boundary is BLM Road 6183. The east boundary is private land and Road W72. The south and west boundaries are defined by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The Swan Lake Rim consists of a high ridge with a steep scarp on the west face and a low angle slope on the east which leads to further foothills toward the north and a flat plain on the south. The ridge is north-to-south trending for a distance of approximately 11 miles. The unit contains ponderosa and incense cedar as well as juniper and large brushy stands of mahogany and manzanita.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are ten reservoirs, two miles of fenceline, a large gravel operation on the south edge of the unit, and a way on the south that has been seeded to prevent erosion. Due to the cumulative impacts of the listed intrusions, the area is substantially affected by the works of man. It does not appear to be essentially natural.

Solitude: The extremely narrow configuration of the subunit, in conjunction with its limited size and topographic and vegetative condition does not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The area does offer opportunity for day hiking, wildlife observation, and hunting. These opportunities are not outstanding because one's activities would be confined within the narrow boundaries of theunit.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers deer habitat and nesting areas for bald eagles.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This unit does not appear in a generally natural condition and does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-157/CA-020-1005

Unit Name: Coleman Valley West/Colman Ranch

This unit includes public lands in both Oregon and Nevada. The Nevada lands are administered by the BLM Susanville District Office in California. The public lands in Oregon are located in two pieces which are not contiguous to each other in Oregon but which are both contiguous to the public lands in Nevada. The two arms in Oregon were listed in the initial inventory report and shown on the initial inventory map as Units 1-157 and 1-162. Because they are parts of one piece of contiguous public land crossing the state line, the lands formerly in Unit 1-162 are now included in Unit 1-157. The following narrative describes all of the contiguous public lands in both states.

Description

Size: The unit contains 23,005 acres--10,000 acres in Oregon and 13,005 acres in Nevada. Inholdings include 360 acres of private land at Cahill Reservoir and another 40-acre parcel in Oregon and 880 acres of private land in scattered tracts in Nevada.

Location: Ten miles south of Adel.

Boundaries: The northeast arm in Oregon is bounded by BLM Road 6172 and spurs on the west, and Road W7 and private lands on the east. The northwest arm in Oregon is bounded by a 500-KV powerline road on the west, private land on the north, and BLM Road 6172 C and private land on the east. The lands in Nevada are bounded by the powerline road on the west, by the Barrel Springs Road and private land on the south, and by roads and private land on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The west side of the unit is a low plateau dissected by Twelvemile and Horse Creeks. Elevations rise sharply east of the Horse Creek drainage. Most of the rest of the unit contains low, rolling hills with a few rocks, ridgelines, and shallow drainages. A small mountain range extends from the northeast arm in Oregon south a few miles into Nevada. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass, scattered juniper, and isolated stands of ponderosa pine.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Because of the overall effect of reservoir developments, spring developments, and roads, the northern four miles of the northeast portion of the unit do not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. This portion contains three developed springs and very noticeable roads leading to Terry Spring and Cahill Reservoir. Two small reservoirs are located in the north end. The northwest arm of the unit is very narrow, and it is significantly affected by the 500-kV powerline along the west boundary. The southern portion is affected to a minor degree by a few miles of ways and several pit reservoirs, but it remains generally natural in appearance.

Solitude: The unit offers only marginal opportunities to avoid the presence of others in the unit due to the generally open terrain, the broad flat areas, and little vegetative screening. The small size of the portion retaining a mostly natural condition further restricts opportunities for solitude. The stream drainages in the unit offer minor areas of solitude for small numbers of people.

Recreation: The unit has potential for hunting and wildlife observation with limited potential as a day use area. The limited size of the portion remaining in a natural condition and the absence of unique or interesting terrain or vegetation limit the recreational attractiveness of the unit. It does not offer any outstanding recreation opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit may contain some archaeological values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Most of the unit is natural in character but offers only marginal opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; the opportunities are not outstanding.

Preliminary Summary of Public Comments - California-Administered Portion: Comments supported the preliminary recommendation that the California-administered portion of the unit did not qualify as a wilderness study area mentioning such factors as private inholdings, ways, roads and livestock support facilities as disqualifying the area.

Unit Number: 1-158

Unit Name: Breezy

Description

Size: 6,240 acres

Location: Approximately 18 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The north boundary is Oregon Highway 140. The west boundary is Oregon State land and a subunit of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge. The south boundary is the Nevada state line which also serves as the boundary of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge.

Physical Characteristics: The unit forms a very narrow strip between the Nevada state line and Oregon Highway 140. The upland portion of the unit is a sage flat. Guano Rim is located on the west side of the unit. A portion of Stateline Canyon is in the central portion of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one way on the southwest below Daugherty Slide and a way on the Oregon side of a fence along the state boundary. The fenceline is visible from the majority of the unit. The unit is dominated by the imprints of man's work because of its small size, narrow shape and the proximity of the boundary road to the fence. The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: With its extremely narrow shape, flat terrain and the lack of adequate screening, the unit offers little opportunity for solitude. One cannot find solitude in the unit as any location is visible from some point along the northern boundary.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunity for hunting, but very little opportunity for any other form of primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: This unit is adjacent to a proposed wilderness area on the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge. The unit is completely exposed from the Refuge fence to the north boundary and contains a large expanse of flatland which detracts from any potential value as an addition to the refuge proposal.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as one cannot escape the works of man. The unit offers not significant opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of the small size and narrow shape of the unit.

Unit Number: 1-159

Unit Name: Catlow Valley

Description

Size: 58,000 acres of public land. The unit also contains one 320 acre private inholding and 2,280 acres of State land inholding located in 4 school sections.

Location: Adjacent to the northeast corner of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7165 A, W 68 and W 67; 11 miles of scattered private land boundary and 10 miles of Antelope Refuge Boundary on the southwest.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a vast sage flat which rises in elevation to rolling terrain on the northwest. There are approximately eight miles of basalt rim on the northeast where the unit drops into Duhaime Flat. The unit is cut diagonally by Buckhorn Canyon and its tributaries. The canyon country has rolling terrain with shallow draws. Vegetation on the unit is a sagebrush community. There is a substantial spray and seeding project on the Duhaime Flat portion of the unit covering approximately 3,000 acres.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 19 miles of vehicle ways. One of the ways passes approximately five miles up Buckhorn Canyon and is substantially noticeable within the confines of the canyon. There are five miles of fenceline in the unit which are substantially unnoticeable. The Duhaime Flat portion of the unit contains a spray/seeding area of

approximately 3,000 acres and is definitely affected by the works of man. The majority of the acreage south of Duhaime Flat remains in an apparently natural condition.

Solitude: The unit is large enough to afford some degree of solitude even with the generally flat terrain in the unit. The shallow canyons feeding into Buckhorn Canyon would also provide some degree of solitude. The exposed topography in the majority of the area, and the limited offerings of canyons do not represent an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The unit offers limited hunting potential. However, this activity is normally done with motor vehicles in this region. With the broad expanses of sage flats and limited potable water in the unit hiking and backpacking would be possible, but would not represent a high quality experience. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Most of the unit is in an apparently natural condition but it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-162

Unit Name: Twlevemile Creek

Public lands in former Unit 1-162 are now included in Unit 1-157/CA-020-1005.

Unit Number: 1-164/CA-020-1004

Unit Name: Snuff/Twelve Mile Creek

Description

Size: The interstate unit contains approximately 16,130 acres of contiguous public land lying partially in the States of Oregon (1,440 acres) and California (14,690). It encompasses two 160-acre private inholdings.

Location: Twelve miles south of Adel.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary of the unit is a road adjoining a 500-kV powerline. The west boundary is County Road 3-14 (Adel-Ft. Bidwell Road) and private land. The south boundary is the Barrel Springs Road.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain consists of low rolling hills. The Fifteem Mile Creek drainage crosses the northwest portion of the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush, juniper and a few scattered pines in the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The majority of the unit has retained mostly a natural condition. The existing man-created impacts--ways and pit reservoirs--are low-profiled and scattered; they are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This unit, with the close access of a major road, its small size and general exposures, does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit is located in an active hunting area. and there are some scenic and hiking values along Fifteen Mile Creek. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation, as potential on the unit is limited.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values recognized in this unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: A joint inventory by Susanville and Lakeview District personnel concluded that the unit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Preliminary Summary of Public Comments - California-Administered Portion: Comments concurred with the preliminary recommendation that the unit did not qualify as a wilderness study area. One comment objected to excluding this and other units from further study based upon arbitrary judgement that an area lacks vegetative or topographic screening.

BURNS DISTRICT

Unit Number: 2-18

Unit Name: Skull Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-18 contains 8,795 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into seven subunits. Six of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 20 to 1,305 acres. None of the six subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-18G.

Description

Size: 6,850 acres of public land with a 160-acre private inholding.

Location: 13 miles northwest of Burns.

Boundaries: The north and south boundaries are roads; the east boundary is a road and State land; and the west boundary is formed by roads and private land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography ranges from broad, flat, rocky areas to gently rolling hills with a well defined canyon (Skull Creek) in the north. The general elevation is 4,800 feet. The vegetation includes big and low sagebrush, ponderosa pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, and bitterbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Five scattered reservoirs and a network of 12 miles of ways have a cumulative effect on the naturalness of this subunit. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout subunit 2-18G. An 80 acre seeding in the northwest and four miles of fenceline are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The broad, flat areas covered with low sagebrush do not provide an opportunity for solitude. The draws with juniper and some pine provide a better opportunity for screening but the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding because of the small size of the subunit, the narrow elongated shape (one to one and one-half miles wide by six miles long), the proximity of the draws to each other, and the lack of sufficient topographic screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for rockhounding, fishing, hunting (deer, antelope, elk, sage grouse), hiking, and horseback riding. However, none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of cultural resources; deer summer range occurs in the southwest portion of the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout this subunit in the form of 12 miles of ways, forming a network, and five scattered reservoirs. Also, the subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-19

Unit Name: Silvies River

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-19 is located five miles northwest of Burns. It contains 7,520 acres of public land. Three roads divide the area into three subunits. All of these areas contain less than 5,000 contiguous acres of public land (from 970 to 3,940 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of the subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness areas.

Unit Number: 2-30

Unit Name: Palomino Buttes

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-30 contains 13,075 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into 11 subunits. Of the 11 subunits, ten contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 25 to 1,520 acres. None of the ten subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and they are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-30K

Description

Size: 7,885 acres of public land with a 640 acre private inholding.

Location: 17 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private land and one-quarter mile of State land; the east boundary is a BLM road and private land; the south boundary is private land, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land, and a BLM road; and the west boundary is private land, roads, and Malheur Refuge land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists primarily of broad, flat areas throughout the subunit with some low hills and buttes in the north and central portions. A low rim running north-south is located near the east boundary. Freeman Butte rises to 4,525 feet in the north. The vegetation includes big sagebrush, grasses, and greasewood with limited juniper in the butte areas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A three-acre cinder pit near the west boundary road is substantially noticeable. A reservoir, corral, and two ways all in the northeast corner are substantially unnoticeable as is a way and fenceline in the south. The subunit (excluding the cinder pit) appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The flat terrain with a few low hills does not provide a user an outstanding opportunity for solitude when coupled with a lack of sufficient vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Range for antelope and wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural (excluding the three-acre cinder pit) with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-43

Unit Name: Wagontire Mountain

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-43 contains 48,875 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into six subunits. Of these six subunits, two possess fewer than 5,000 acres (2,765 and 3,830 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area, and are not described below. In addition, the boundary separating Units 2-45 and 2-43 was determined not to be a road. Therefore, Unit 2-45 has been combined with Subunit F of Unit 2-43 and will be discussed in that narrative. The acreage total above includes the acres in 2-45.

Subunit Number: 2-43A

Description

Size: 9,590 acres.

Location: Seven miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of approximately four miles of private land on the west side.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of this subunit is comprised of flat to gently rolling topography. The topography on the east side of the subunit is slightly more diverse with several small but pronounced drainages flowing toward the center of the area. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass, with some scattered juniper occurring on the east side.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The developments are limited to less than two miles of vehicle ways, less than one mile of fence, and one reservoir. The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition; man's imprint is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunitites for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunites for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife, and hunting. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears to be substantially free of the imprint of man's work, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-43B

Description

Size: 10,600 acres.

Location: 18 miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of a mile of private land in both the southwest and northwest corners.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is typified by flat to gently rolling terrain. Within the central portion, the topography consists of gently rolling hills while on the west a small flat-topped ridge rises above the valley floor. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass throughout, with some patches of scattered juniper in the area of rolling hills near the center of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, four miles of fenceline, and about 920 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. The seeding area is located in the east portion of the subunit; it is substantially noticeable. The remainder of the area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and viewing wildlife, however, none of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of a 960-acre crested wheatgrass seeding in the east corner, the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-43D

Description

Size: 7,985 acres.

Location: Two miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a parcel of State land and a parcel of private land on the east boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Most of this subunit consists of gently rolling topography with small buttes and areas of rimrock scattered throughout. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass with scattered juniper through much of the area and an occasional heavy stand of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately six miles of fence, six reservoirs, and about six miles of vehicle ways. These developments alone are substantially unnoticeable. In addition, approximately 2,250 acres have been seeded to crested wheatgrass for fire rehabilitation. This seeding is a substantially noticeable imprint of man. Due to the nature of

the seeding, the elimination of the seeded acreage would result in a total of about 3,100 acres of the subunit being dropped (some acreage within the boundary of the seeding was not seeded). The substantial amount of seeding combined with the other developments within the subunit have a cumulative impact which make the area appear to be in an unnatural condition.

Solitude: The scattered pockets of heavy juniper and somewhat diverse topography create areas within the subunit where a visitor could obtain a feeling of solitude. However, because of the relatively small size of the area (even smaller with the elimination of the seeded area) it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and viewing wildlife. While these opportunities are good in much of this area because of the topography and vegetation, they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Due to the impact of a substantial amount of acreage affected by a crested wheatgrass seeding and the cumulative impacts of all the developments within the subunit, man's imprint is substantially noticeable throughout the subunit; the subunit no longer appears to be in a basically natural condition. In addition, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-43F

Description

Size: 13,100 acres of public land. The 8,275 acres of public land in Subunit F has been combined with the 5,825 acres formerly in Unit 2-45. The road identified during the initial inventory as the southern boundary of Unit 2-45 has been determined not to meet the road definition. This boundary is a historical route but is no longer maintained and receives very little use.

Location: Seven miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north and east by private land and on the south and west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of this subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Although the south end of the subunit contains some moderate sized buttes (some edged with rimrock), the terrain flattens toward the north end of the area. The vegetation in the subunit is primarily sagebrush and grass; however, there are some areas within the subunit which contain moderate stands of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains three reservoirs, one well, three miles of fence, approximately 650 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, and about eight miles of vehicle ways (including the former boundary). These developments are fairly well dispersed and are substantially unnoticeable with the exception of the former boundary which is a much more visible scar due to the amount of past use. The subunit generally appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit contains a few small areas where the topography and vegetation provide some screening; however, these areas are generally quite small and widely scattered. In general, the subunit contains of relatively open terrain where broad vistas are common and little opportunity for seclusion exists. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for a visitor to obtain solitude.

Recreation: Subunit 2-43F provides opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, hunting, and horseback riding. None of these opportunities, however, are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The former boundary between Units 2-45 and 2-43F has historical value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-44

Unit Name: Tired Horse

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-44 contains approximately 8,275 acres of public land. Roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the unit into three subunits. Two of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (400 acres and 360 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-44C

Description

Size: 7,515 acres of public land

Location: Four miles southeast of Stauffer.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land, BLM roads and adjacent BLM land in the north, and roads and adjacent BLM land on the remaining sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit consists of gently rolling hills and flat land. The highest point is a small isolated butte near the center of the subunit. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass throughout most of the area with some widely scattered juniper on the west side of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The man-made developments within the subunit include three reservoirs which are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers no topographic screening and the scattered juniper provides little or no vegetative screening. There is no place within the subunit where a visitor could find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The recreation opportunties within this subunit are limited. Opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope) exist but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit C appears to be generally free of the imprint of man but it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-45

Unit Name: Lost Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-45 contained 5,825 acres of public land. During the intensive inventory, it was determined that the southern boundary was not a road. As a result, Unit 2-45 is combined with Subunit F of Unit 2-43. The land formerly in Unit 2-45 is included in the description of the proposed decision for Subunit 2-43F.

Unit Number: 2-47

Unit Name: Surprise Lake

Description

Size: 21,940 acres of public land, with three private land inholdings totaling 560 acres.

Location: 15 miles west of Riley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by U. S. Highway 20 and private land on the north; BLM roads and adjacent BLM land on the east and south; and a combination of State land, private land, BLM roads and adjacent BLM land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant topography throughout most of this unit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Areas in the north and southwest portions of the unit are made up of low ridges lined with rimrock and some small hills. The dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush, grass and rabbitbrush, although patches of scattered juniper occur near the ridgelines and in the hills along the western edge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within this unit are 17 reservoirs, 14 miles of fence, 11 miles of vehicle ways, and a mile of powerlines. Although these developments are dispersed throughout the unit, they have a cumulative impact on the naturalness of the unit. The imprint of man's work is present throughout the unit and the area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The flat to gently rolling topography and low vegetation throughout most of the unit restrict the possibility of a visitor finding a secluded spot. Those areas where the topographic and vegetative screening is greater are not very large, and broad vistas are common. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife (antelope), and hunting (primarily deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work within this unit is substantially noticeable causing the area to appear to be in a generally unnatural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-48

Unit Name: Hay Lake

Description

Size: 18,350 acres of public land, with inholdings of 640 acres of State land in a one-section parcel, and one 80-acre parcel of private land.

Location: 12 miles west of Riley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by U. S. Highway 20, private land and State land on the north; a powerline and an associated access (maintenance) road, a BLM road, and Squaw Butte Experiment Station on the east; and BLM roads and adjacent BLM lands on the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: The extreme north end consists of rolling hills and one rimrock edged ridge. The remaining two-thirds are basically flat to gently rolling. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, grass, and scattered patches of rabbitbrush throughout, with scattered juniper in the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within this unit there are 15 reservoirs, five miles of ways, seven miles of fenceline, and approximately 1,800 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. These developments, although dispersed, have a cumulative impact on the naturalness of the area. The developments occur frequently enough that a visitor would find man's imprint substantially noticeable within the unit.

Solitude: Although the north portion contains some topographic diversity and a limited amount of vegetative screening, this part is, at the most, only one to two miles wide. This portion is not of sufficient size, nor does it have sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to provide an outstanding feeling of solitude. The remainder of the unit, which is essentially flat with no vegetative screening, prevents the unit as a whole from allowing a visitor to obtain an outstanding sense of solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work within the unit is substantially noticeable to the point that the area no longer appears to be in a natural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-49

Unit Name: Sheep Lake

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-49 contains 28,965 acres of public land. Roads divide the unit into three subunits. Of these three subunits, two are less than 5,000 acres (ranging from 800 to 3,520 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-49C

Description

Size: 24,645 acres of public land. Inholdings include 640 acres of State land and 120 acres of private land in three 40-acre parcels.

Location: 13 miles northwest of Riley.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by State land, BLM roads and adjacent public land and the Ochoco National Forest; on the east by private land; on the south by a powerline access road and adjacent public land; and on the west by private land and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The northwestern half is comprised of a series of ridges running from the northwest to the southeast. These ridges are edged with rimrock, are separated by one-half to two mile wide valleys, and contain one or more ephemeral lakes. The remainder of the subunit is basically flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass. Scattered juniper is common throughout most of the subunit except in the northeastern corner where there is none. It is much heavier along the ridgelines.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit contains 37 reservoirs and spring developments, ten miles of fence, eight miles of vehicle ways, and two miles of irrigation ditch. Views of man-made developments are common from most of the overlook areas along the ridges. Although dispersed throughout the subunit, the visibility and quantity of these developments have a cumulative impact that make man's imprint substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of the topographic variation and vegetative screening within much of this subunit, the area provides outstanding opportunities for visitors to screen themselves from the presence of others or to find a secluded spot. This subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife and hunting. The opportunities for these activities, however, are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Within this subunit cultural resources of various types were observed. The area also offers opportunities for viewing off-site scenic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, the area appears to be in a generally unnatural condition with man's imprint substantially noticeable, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 2-50

Unit Name: Claw Creek

Description

Size: 8,600 acres.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Riley.

Boundaries: The western and southern boundaries are defined by roads and public land; the east boundary is Ochoco National Forest, private, and State land; the north boundary is public and private land and a road.

Physical Characteristics: The elevation varies from 4,500 ft. to 5,900 feet. The northern and western half of the unit is comprised of rolling lowlands next to Claw Creek and rounded ridge uplands. The other half of the area to the south and east contains more well defined ridges. Intermittent streams drain southwest across the unit. The area contains Ponderosa pine, juniper and mountain mahogany in the ridge topography and low and big sage in the upland and lowland areas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The cumulative effect of four water developments, five miles of ways, a small abandoned borrow pit area and three-fourths mile of fenceline is that the area does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout the unit.

Solitude: The ridge topography in the south and east portions offer an approximate one-mile wide corridor with good ponderosa pine and juniper cover. The other portions of the unit, with their flat to rolling topography, lack of vegetative cover, and shallow drainages offer very little opportunity for screening. Due to the size of the unit, the narrow configuration and the lack of topographic screening, the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, elk, and upland game) hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. However, none of these are considered to be outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Elk use the area for winter range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout this unit. In addition, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-52

Unit Name: Miller Canyon

Description

Size: 5,805 acres.

Location: Seven miles north of Riley.

Boundaries: The Ochoco National Forest forms the north boundary; Miller Canyon Road and public land form the east boundary; and private and public land form the south and west boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The greater part of the unit is rolling ridge topography. A small area of flat lowlands is located in the

south-central portion. Intermittent shallow stream drainages cut through the area. The range of elevation is between 4,500 and 5,500 feet. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass in the lowland. Juniper appears in the foothills. Pine and mountain mahogany grow in the higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A drilled seeding, six reservoirs, one mile of fenceline, and 12 miles of ways are located in this unit. The northern ridge topography allows the developments in the lower elevations to be visible and the dispersion of the developments make it impossible to travel in the unit without seeing man's imprint.

Solitude: Unit 2-52 does not offer outstanding opportunties for solitude. This is primarily due to the lack of topographic or vegetative screening along the southern portion of the unit and the limited screening available in the north due to the relatively scattered pine and juniper cover along the ridges.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting. However, none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer use the area for winter range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout this unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for the user to find solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-53

Unit Name: Gum Boot Canyon

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-53 contains 8,475 acres of public land. Intensive inventory identified a road which divides it into two subunits. One of the subunits contains 2,195 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-53B

Description

Size: 6,280 acres.

Location: Five miles north of Riley, Oregon.

Boundaries: Roads, private, public, and State land define the northern boundary; a road and public land define the eastern boundary; and roads, public and private land, and a dead-end road define the south and western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The elevation ranges from 4,500 ft. to 5,000 ft. The topography ranges from gently sloping lowlands to ridged uplands with well defined drainages. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush, low sagebrush, bitterbrush, juniper, and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two dugout lakebeds, two reservoirs, one spring development, two corrals, and two miles of fenceline are found within the area. These developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit's ridge topography with its juniper cover does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to its size and narrow configuration (average breadth two miles).

Recreation: The subunit offers these forms of recreation: hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, and hunting. The size and configuration of the area limit the user's opportunity to find any of these forms of recreation outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area is a winter range for deer. Sage grouse strutting grounds exist within the area.

Proposed Rationale: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-54

Unit Name: Saddle Butte

Description

Size: 9,120 acres of public land within one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 25 miles north of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by a BLM road and adjacent public land, and private land; on the east by State Highway 205 and adjacent public land; and on the south and west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of a flat to gently rolling valley floor around the perimeter of the unit, with a predominantly flat top plateau in the center. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains a substantially noticeable powerline along the east side affecting 275 acres. A portion of the Eagle Nest seeding intrudes into the north portion of the unit. The seeding is substantially noticeable and affects 540 acres. A powerline also extends along the northwest corner. The remainder of the unit appears to be generally free of the imprint of man with only one reservoir, three miles of vehicle ways, and two miles of fence.

Solitude: Although a plateau provides some topographic relief in the center of the unit, neither the plateau nor the surrounding area provide a substantial amount of screening. This, coupled with the lack of vegetative screening throughout the unit, prevents the unit from offering an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (primarily antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of 815 acres affected by the powerline and seeding, the unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 2-55

Unit Name: Frenchglen

Description

Size: 65,925 acres of public land. Inholdings include 640 acres of State land and 1,720 acres of private land.

Location: Adjacent to and northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private land on the north, a State highway and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land on the east, private land and a county road on the south; and State land, private land, BLM roads, and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This area contains a wide variety of topography. Most of the unit lies atop a plateau which rises 1,000 feet above the Blitzen Valley to the east. Many smaller ridges, buttes, canyons, and intermittent lakes are located between the ridgeline which forms the top of the plateau and the valley below. This ridge area is 12 miles long, but at its widest point it is less than one and one-half miles wide. On top of the plateau in the northern end of the unit, Jackass Butte rises about 400 feet above the flat to gently rolling land to the south. In the middle of the unit are several moderate sized buttes. The southwest side of the subunit contains two canyons which cut through the plateau. The southern portion of the unit contains the LaVoy Tables, a relatively flat-topped mesa. South of the rim which surrounds this end of the unit is the northern end of the Catlow Valley. Most of the unit is covered with sagebrush and grass; however, patches of juniper occur in the area, especially in the central portion and along the east side.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains a large number of developments, including nine miles of dead-end roads, 58 miles of vehicle ways, 34 reservoirs, six miles of fence, one open dump, one borrow pit, a radio facility, a powerline which intermittently cuts through the east side of the area, and a power substation. With a few exceptions most of these developments are substantially unnoticeable on an individual basis. However, the ways and dead-end roads crisscross the unit and most of the other developments are associated with these travel routes. It would be difficult for a visitor to travel through the unit without encountering a man-made development. In addition, many of the developments are visible from higher points within the unit. The cumulative impact of these developments makes man's imprint within the area substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Much of the area is flat to gently rolling, has little vegetative screening, and offers little opportunity for solitude. Portions of the unit have diverse topography and vegetation which is tall enough to provide areas for individuals to screen themselves from the presence of others. However, these areas are generally small, isolated, and few in number (e.g., the long narrow strip along the ridgeline on the eastern side and isolated spots in the center of the area). In addition, the long and relatively narrow configuration of the unit and the large intrusion of private land on the western side limit opportunities for solitude. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This unit provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, sightseeing, and fishing. Most of these opportunities are only fair to good. Hiking, chukar hunting, and sightseeing provide the best opportunities along the eastern side. The unit as a whole, however, does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: Many raptors nest along the ridge from Frenchglen south to the end of the unit. The unit also contains scenic values because of the views of off-site features such as the Malheur Wildlife Refuge and the west side of Steens Mountain.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Due to the presence of numerous developments which, cumulatively, are substantially noticeable, this unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-56

Unit Name: Black Rim

Description

Size: 13,555 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Ten miles north of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent BLM land except for a mile of private land in the southwest corner.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of a series of parallel flat top ridges. The land between the ridges and along the south and west sides is flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains ten reservoirs, 12 miles of ways, and less than one mile of fence. Ten acres around one of the reservoirs near the northern boundary are heavily scarred and constitute a major intrusion. The remaining developments are dispersed throughout the unit. Cumulatively, they are a substantially noticeable imprint of man's work.

Solitude: Although the ridges in the northeast portion of the unit provide some topographic relief, it is not sufficient to provide areas where a visitor could find a secluded spot. The area does not offer an outstanding

opportunity for solitude because of the lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife (horses and antelope), and hunting (primarily antelope); however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition as the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunites for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-57

Unit Name: Jackass Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-57 contains 19,255 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into five subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 250 to 2,225 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-57A

Description

Size: 14,580 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by State and private land, BLM roads and adjacent public land; on the east and south by private land and BLM roads and adjacent public land; and on the west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature in this subunit is Jackass Creek Canyon. This canyon cuts across a plateau (which comprises the remainder of the subunit) from the northwest to the southeast, and is approximately four miles long. The portion of the plateau northeast of the canyon contains a few small buttes and rimrock, while the plateau area to the southwest is predominantly flat to gently rolling. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains seven reservoirs and approximately eight miles of vehicle ways. These developments are fairly well dispersed but primarily occur in the plateau area to the southwest of the canyon. In general, the developments are not substantially noticeable and the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: Because of the general lack of topographic and vegetative screening in most of this subunit, a visitor would not be provided outstanding opportunities to obtain a feeling of solitude. Jackass Creek Canyon does not offer outstanding solitude because of its short length, sloping side walls, and lack of vegetative screening in the canyon bottom.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, viewing wildlife and scenery, and hunting (primarily antelope). The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit offers off-site scenic values and a limited amount of raptor nesting sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition, with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-58

Unit Name: Keg Springs

Description

Size: 22,200 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Eight miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is surrounded by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of two one-mile wide State parcels on the south.

Physical Characteristics: This unit includes Keg Springs Valley on the south and a plateau region on the north and west. The south perimeter of the plateau is a long rimrock-edged ridge which runs the length of the unit. Both the plateau and valley areas are basically flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is typically sagebrush and grass. One small stand of scattered juniper occurs in the southeast corner along the ridge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains seven reservoirs, approximately 11 miles of vehicle ways, and six miles of fence. These developments are somewhat concentrated on both ends of the unit but are not substantially noticeable imprints of man within the unit as a whole.

Solitude: The ridgeline through the center of the unit does not create a substantial amount of screening. The gently rolling topography and low vegetation throughout the unit would not provide an opportunity for a visitor to obtain an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this unit include hiking, viewing wildlife, hunting (primarily antelope) and horseback riding. None of these opportunities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The rim area through the middle of this unit provides nesting opportunities for raptors.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-59

Unit Name: Taylor Cabin

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-59 contains 14,850 acres of public land. The intensive inventory of the unit identified a road which divided the area into two subunits. Subunit B contains 3,760 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-59A

Description

Size: 11,090 acres of public land; one inholding of 600 acres of State land.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small parcel of private land on the east side.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit consists of very gently rolling to flat land. One small rim occurs in the northern portion of the unit but it is less than one mile long. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit A contains 15 reservoirs, approximately 11 miles of vehicle ways, and about one-half mile of fence. The cumulative impact of the developments within this area makes man's impact substantially noticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: The relatively flat topography and low vegetation do not provide a visitor with a chance to find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife (antelope) and hunting (primarily antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Cultural resources of various types were observed in the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work within the subunit is substantially noticeable and the area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition. In addition, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-60

Unit Name: Weed Lake

Description

Size: 19,520 acres of public land; one inholding of 1,240 acres of State land.

Location: 25 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by private land, and by a BLM road and adjacent public land; on the east by a small parcel of private land, one mile of State land, and BLM roads and adjacent public lands; and on the south and west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The northeast corner is basically flat but rises to a plateau in the central portion through a series of ridges and gently rolling topography. The remainder of the unit to the south consists of gently rolling hills and flat land. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass, with rabbitbrush being common in the flat land to the northeast.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains eleven reservoirs, nine miles of fence, an irrigation ditch approximately two miles long, and approximately 30 miles of vehicle ways. Although these developments are scattered throughout the unit, their quantity creates a cumulative impact which makes man's imprint substantially noticeable within this unit.

Solitude: This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The relatively flat topography (only about four miles in the center provides even moderate topographic screening) and low vegetation do not provide opportunities for an individual to isolate or screen himself from others in the unit.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this unit include hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife, and hunting (primarily antelope). The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Raptor nests are located in the rim areas in the center of the unit. This part of the unit also offers vistas of off-site scenery.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition; the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-61

Unit Name: Foster Flat

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-61 contains 42,760 acres of public land. The intensive inventory of the unit identified a number of roads that divide Unit 2-61 into seven subunits. Three of those seven subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area. They range in size from 300 to 2,880 acres; they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-61A

Description

Size: 5,660 acres.

Location: One-half mile from the western side of Harney Lake and about 28 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: A road and public land form the south and east boundaries; State, private, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge lands form the north boundary; while a road, private land, and public land form the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit 2-61A consists of a high terrace that drops off sharply to the north to Harney Lake Basin. A wide shallow drainage meanders across the broad open topography which characterizes the subunit. The common vegetative types are sagebrush and greasewood.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: One-quarter mile of vehicle way is the only evidence of man's work in the subunit. It is not substantially noticeable, making the subunit appear to be essentially natural.

Solitude: The lowland in the south rises gently but steadily to the north, allowing visitors to be highly visible throughout most of the area. The wide and shallow drainages allow little screening. The rim area in the north does provide some opportunity to find seclusion; however, it is not outstanding. The user does not find an outstanding opportunity to avoid the evidence of others in this subunit.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking and hunting can be found in Subunit 2-61A; however, they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area lies in a major avian flyway between Hart Mountain, Oregon, and Silver Creek Valley, Oregon.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to be natural. It offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-61D

Description

Size: The area contains 8,270 acres of contiguous public land. A 640 acre inholding of State land is located within its boundaries.

Location: The subunit is 20 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the subunit on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The landscape is dominated by an extensive flat terrace; it also includes a few scattered rolling hills. Drainages found within the subunit are wide and shallow and two dry lakebeds are located along the northern border. Big sagebrush and greasewood are the most common vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains three reservoirs and approximately six miles of vehicle ways. The surrounding flat topography and its low vegetation provide no points from which these developments can be viewed. None of the imprints of man's work in this subunit give the area an unnatural appearance.

Solitude: Subunit 2-61D lacks topographic or vegetative diversity. The open expansive landscape with its wide and shallow drainages provide no screening or secluded spots for the user. The area does not provide an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds.

Recreation: Opportunities for hunting and hiking are offered to the recreationist; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-61E

Description

Size: Subunit 2-61E contains 15,470 acres of public land. Two inholdings of State land total 1,280 acres.

Location: 20 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the subunit on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists mainly of an extensive flat terrace with virtually no relief; a plateau is located in the extreme north. Directly below the plateau's south rim lies a shallow narrow drainage. Five dry lakebed areas are scattered throughout the area. Low sagebrush and an understory of grass comprise the subunit's common vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Six reservoirs, a corral, three miles of fenceline, and five vehicle ways totaling approximately eleven miles are found within the subunit. None of these developments are substantially noticeable because there are no high points in the landscape from which they would be readily viewed. The subunit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The greater part of the subunit consists of a flat terrace containing broad shallow drainages that provide no effective screening. There is no vegetative screening. The northern corner of the area has a drainage at the base of a plateau that would provide some solitude from others; however, the area is visible from the gentle slopes above it. Because of the lack of vegetative screening and the flat terrain, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for recreational activities exist and include hiking, horseback riding and hunting; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Subunit 2-61E lies in a major avian flyway between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-61F

Description

Size: 7,350 acres.

Location: 23 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by roads and public land.

Physical Characteristics: A few gently rolling hills give little definition to the generally flat terrace. Dry lakebeds covered with sparse vegetation are located throughout the area. Low sagebrush and bitterbrush are the most common vegetative types found within the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, and two and one-half miles of fenceline. None of these developments are substantially noticeable, and the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The long and narrow configuration (six miles by three miles) and the gently rolling to flat topography with its low-growing vegetation and dry lakebeds provide only limited screening. This area provides little opportunity for the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hunting, hiking and viewing wildlife. However, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Subunit 2-61F lies in a migratory flyway located between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-62

Unit Name: Nothing There

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-62 contains 10,620 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into three subunits. Two of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres; 2-62A contains 380 acres and 2-62B contains 2,285 acres. These two subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-62C

Description

Size: 7,955 acres.

Location: 24 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: The north boundary is formed by BLM roads and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land; the east boundary is a BLM road and private property; the south boundary is a BLM road and State land; and the west boundary is BLM roads. A half-mile dead-end road leads to a reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The topography varies from flat to gently rolling with several long, low ridges running northwest to southeast containing some scattered rimrock. A 300-acre saltgrass flat is located in the northwest. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grass with saltgrass and greasewood on the flat. The general elevation is 4,500 feet.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A reservoir, two ways, and a 150-acre fenced, crested wheatgrass seeding are all substantially noticeable and occur together in the south part of the subunit next to the boundary road. The total acreage of this unnatural portion is 230 acres. The remainder of subunit 2-62C is generally natural.

Solitude: The flat to gently rolling topography and the lack of sufficient vegetative screening do not provide a user with an outstanding opportunity to avoid the presence of others or to find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses and burros use this area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: A 230 acre portion in the south is unnatural. The remaining 7,725 acres are generally natural but do not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation or solitude.

Unit Number: 2-63

Unit Name: Chicken Feed Lake

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory unit 2-63 contains 12,800 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into two subunits. Subunit 2-63A contains 170 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-63B

Description

Size: 12,630 acres.

Location: 28 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads and State land on the north; roads and private land on the east; roads on the south; and a road, private land, and State land on the west. A mile-long dead-end road leads to a reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The topography ranges from broad, flat expanses to gently rolling areas. Several long, low ridges with some scattered rimrock run northwest to southeast. The general elevation is 4,600 feet. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with some rabbitbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Chicken Feed Lake Reservoir and a fenced crested wheatgrass seeding covering 300 acres in the northeast corner are substantially noticeable imprints of man. The remainder of the subunit appears to be generally natural. Two reservoirs, one well with a short road leading to it, and two ways totaling two miles are substantially unnoticeable developments scattered in the subunit.

Solitude: This subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to a lack of sufficient topographic relief and vegetative screening. A user does not have an outstanding opportunity to find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses and burros use this subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprints of man are substantially noticeable in 303 acres of the subunit. The remaining 12,327 acres are generally natural but do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-64

Unit Name: Buzzard Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Unit 2-64 contains 34,495 acres of public land. Intensive inventory identified a number of roads which divide the unit into seven subunits. Five of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The subunits range from 160 to 3,730 acres; they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-64A

Description

Size: 14,140 acres.

Location: Approximately eight miles southwest of Harney Lake, and about 28 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: Roads and adjacent public land bound the subunit on all sides with the exception of a State parcel intruding on the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains an extensive terrace with some scattered rimrock and rolling hills. Deep Canyon, a broad and open drainage, traverses the south and southeast portions. Big and low sagebrush are the dominant vegetation types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains four reservoirs and four vehicle ways totaling approximately six miles. All of the developments are dispersed and located near the perimeter of the area. The developments are not substantially noticeable; the subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The north portion is flat and open, and it does not provide sufficient area for seclusion. Deep Canyon in the middle of the area would provide the best opportunity for solitude. However, there is not enough elevation difference around the drainage for the visitors to sufficiently screen themselves from others in the area. The remaining south portion consists of broad, open rolling hills which would allow the visitor to be highly visible. The area does not offer outstanding solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hunting, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hiking are present in this area; they are not outstanding, however.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley, Oregon. Some raptor nesting sites may be located in the rimrock areas.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-64B

Description

Size: 14,570 acres.

Location: The area is located approximately five miles southwest of Harney Lake and about 30 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the area on all sides with the exception of a State parcel on the north and a State parcel attached to a dead-end road in the interior of the subunit.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of gently rolling hills, broad drainages and scattered rimrock. The common vegetative types are big and low sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition although it contains nearly twelve miles of vehicle ways, one reservoir and a ditch. Man's imprint is substantially unnoticeable because the developments are generally dispersed and somewhat overgrown with native vegetation.

Solitude: The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevents the visitor from finding a secluded spot or avoiding the sights and sounds of others. Buzzard Creek Canyon in the south portion is not large enough to provide an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: This area offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding and viewing wildlife. None of these opportunities are outstanding within the subunit.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies within a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek. The area may contain some raptor nesting sites in the rimrock.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-65

Unit Name: Deep Canyon

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-65 contains 6,215 acres of public land. During the intensive inventory, roads were identified that divided the unit into three subunits. Two of the three subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land, and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The two subunits contain 50 and 775 acres; they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-65A

Description

Size: 5,390 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the subunit on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is dominated by flat upland with little topographic relief. A canyon is located in the northern portion and a small rim is in the east portion. Big sagebrush, perennial bunchgrass, annual grass, and Sandberg's bluegrass are the common vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs (two on the west boundary and one on the east boundary) and four miles of vehicle ways are dispersed through the area. The developments are all substantially unnoticeable because of the adjacent terrain and vegetation.

Solitude: The canyon area offers some opportunity for solitude, however, it extends only one-half mile into the subunit and lacks vegetative screening. The remaining portions of the area lack topographic diversity and vegetative screening, preventing the user from achieving an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for activities such as wildlife viewing, hunting and hiking; however, none of these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain, Oregon to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-67

Unit Name: Iron Mountain

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-67 contains 13,580 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into three subunits. Subunits A and B contain less than 5,000 acres: A contains 1,520 acres and B contains 1,900 acres. They do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-67C

Description

Size: 10,160 acres.

Location: 29 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: On the north and east BLM roads and private property form the boundary; on the south BLM roads and State land; and on the west BLM roads, State land, and private land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography varies from flat to gently rolling with a few long, low ridges running northwest to southeast. The general elevation is 4,500 feet with Iron Mountain rising to 5,400 feet just outside of Subunit C. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush, rabbitbrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A well (one-acre area) in the west is a noticeable imprint of man. The remainder of the subunit appears to be generally natural. Two substantially unnoticeable ways are located in the subunit (one in the north and one in the center).

Solitude: The flat to gently rolling terrain in Subunit C, coupled with a lack of vegetative screening, does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a user to find a secluded spot and achieve solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Winter range for wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Except for the substantially noticeable well in the western portion of the subunit, the subunit appears to be generally natural. However, it does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-68

Unit Name: Smokey Hollow

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-68 contains 8,225 acres of public land. A road divides the unit into two subunits. One subunit contains 535 acres. This subunit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-68A

Description

Size: 7,690 acres.

Location: 20 miles east of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is partially bordered by two sections of State land; the remainder of the subunit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is primarily a plateau edged with rimrock and rising above a flat valley floor. On top of the plateau a few flat-topped rocky buttes are scattered in the north end of the subunit, while the remaining area is generally flat. The vegetation in the subunit is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit appears to be in a natural condition; no man-made developments were identified during the intensive inventory field work.

Solitude: The subunit provides virtually no topographic or vegetative screening that would allow visitors to find a secluded spot or screen themselves from others. This factor is accentuated by the long and narrow configuration of the subunit. The subunit does not offer opportunities for a visitor to obtain an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this subunit include viewing wildlife, hunting, and hiking. None of the opportunities for these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies within a major bird migration route extending from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition, it does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-69

Unit Name: Devils Canyon

Description

Size: 14,015 acres.

Location: 23 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a corner of State land on the eastern side.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is dominated by a flat-top terrace. Along the west side of the unit a ridge bounds the edge of the terrace before it drops into a lower flatland to the west. The top of the terrace contains small, wide, shallow drainages with the exception of Devils Canyon, which is a narrow drainage fringed with rimrock. The vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five miles of vehicle ways, three reservoirs, a wildlife guzzler, two and one-half miles of fence and a two-mile area of fenceline right of way. None of the developments are substantially noticeable and the unit generally appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: Unit 2-69 does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The broad open expanses with no vegetative screening do not provide a situation where a visitor could avoid the sights or sounds of others. The Devils Canyon area is not of sufficient size to provide outstanding solitude on its own.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding; however, none of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit is located within a migration route for birds flying between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley. The rims may contain raptor nesting sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-70

Unit Name: Wilson Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-70 contains 9,745 acres of public land. A road cuts through this unit creating two subunits. One subunit contains only 1,840 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-70A

Description

Size: 7,905 acres.

Location: 14 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: With the exception of a parcel of State land on the north and on the south, the unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature is Wilson Butte, a sagebrush-covered hill which lies in the south-central portion of the area. The remainder of the area consists of a relatively flat to gently rolling terrace edged with rimrock. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This area appears to be in a basically natural condition. The developments within the subunit include approximately five miles of vehicle ways and two reservoirs. Their imprint is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The lack of topographic or vegetative screening within this subunit prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hunting. None of the opportunities for these activities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit is located within a major migration route for birds traveling between the Hart Mountain Area and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-71

Unit Name: Goose Egg

Description

Size: 15,930 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Nine miles east of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of a small corner of State land on the south. During the intensive inventory a mapping error was discovered involving the southern boundary. The correction of the boundary added 300 acres to this unit and subtracted them from Unit 2-114. The acreage cited above and in the description of Unit 2-114 reflects this change.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is dominated by a flat terrace dotted with several dry lakebeds. The topographic relief is limited to a few rolling hills and scattered rimrock. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include nine reservoirs, a corral, one mile of vehicle ways, and a 770-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. With the exception of the seeding the developments are dispersed and are substantially unnoticeable. The seeding is a noticeable imprint of man. The remainder of the area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The limited topographic and vegetative screening available in the area does not provide opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot away from the presence of others.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this area include hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for any of these activities.

Supplemental Values: This unit lies within a primary avian flyway between Hart Mountain and the Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit appears to be in a generally natural condition (with the exception of a 770 acre seeding), it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-72

Unit Name: Sheepshead Mountains

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-72 contains 187,615 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into 14 subunits. Five of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres ranging from 300 acres to 3,530 acres. These five subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-72C

Description

Size: The subunit contains 50,300 acres of public land, including 1,300 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. The subunit also contains 1,280 acres of State land inholding not being acquired and 40 acres of private property.

Location: The subunit is located 15 miles northwest of Burns Junction and two miles south of Folly Farm.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads with the exception of a small parcel of private property on the east, a section of State land on the west and some private property on the northwest. A dead-end road along the east boundary extends two miles into the subunit, stopping at North Heath Creek Reservoir. Another road enters the unit for a mile and dead-ends at Lake Ridge Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is comprised mostly of rolling sagebrush hills. A major ridge running north and south with a precipitous western escarpment is the dominant feature. Several small playas and numerous ravines are also found throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include approximately 15 miles of ways, 18 small earthen reservoirs, five developed springs and five miles of fence. All are substantially unnoticeable due to either their minor disturbance or the screening provided by the topography. The relatively large size of the subunit also helps make the developments less noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit lacks any significant vegetative screening. While topography is diverse, the majority is comprised of gentle, wide open slopes providing little screening. However, the subunit is relatively large; the minimum distance from the perimeter to the core is three miles. Opportunities for solitude could be considered outstanding when the unit's large size and moderate topographic screening are considered in conjunction with each other.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation activities are not outstanding because of the absence of any unique or interesting features and the undistinguished terrain and vegetation. Wild horses may be viewed during certain times of the year. The high ridge offers scenic vistas of Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental values are those previously mentioned under recreational opportunities--the wild horses and the scenic views outside the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 50,300-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It also appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, we found it difficult to evaluate the opportunities for solitude in the subunit; and we will give particular attention to public comments when we re-evaluate the wilderness characteristics before we decide whether to identify the subunit as a wilderness study area.

Subunit Number: 2-72-D

Description

Size: The subunit contains 20,000 acres of public land, including 1,240 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located 12 miles east of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads with the exception of an 80-acre private parcel in the north and a State section in the southwest. An interior road penetrates the subunit for two miles to Sage Hen Reservoir in Section 27.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the topography consists of open, gently rolling sagebrush hills. Wildcat Canyon is the most pronounced relief with its steep walls, rock rims, and side canyons. Sagebrush and native grasses are the dominant vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A total of 14 reservoirs, eight miles of ways, two developed springs and nine miles of fence result in the subunit not appearing to be generally natural. The cumulative impact from the frequency of contact with the many reservoirs plus the noticeability of the ways on the open slopes result in the imprint of man's work being substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The only outstanding opportunity for solitude possible within the subunit would be in Wildcat Canyon and its tributaries. The remainder of the subunit lacks any screening.

Recreation: Wildcat Canyon may offer some opportunities for hiking, exploring, sightseeing and photography. However, they are not outstanding since the canyon is similar to typical rimrock sagebrush canyons traversing lava formations. It has no truly unique or special features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural; the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Subunit Number: 2-72E

Description

Size: The subunit contains 15,000 acres of public land, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Eight miles east of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: Rolling sagebrush and grass covered hills are the major relief. The subunit contains occasional rimrock outcrops and shallow drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include four miles of ways, six reservoirs, two developed springs and five miles of fence. The ways are substantially noticeable; they are very visible as they climb the open slopes and cross ridge tops. The reservoirs, springs and fence are substantially unnoticeable, causing only minor impacts in the natural landscape feature.

Solitude: The subunit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the lack of vegetative screening and pronounced topographic relief and the subunit's relatively small size.

Recreation: The terrain offers little diversity and challenge and no interesting or unique features. There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the subunit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of the substantially noticeable ways. However, there are no outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-72F

Description

Size: 20,330 acres.

Location: Five miles south of Folly Farm and 22 miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by BLM roads and two sections of State land on the east and south, and by private land, State land, and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The area consists primarily of one major ridgeline running from north to south through the center of the subunit. This ridgeline drops sharply to the east, where the topography is generally flat with an intermittent lakebed in the north and some small ridges and buttes in the south. The west side of the subunit contains gently rolling hills and scattered rock outcroppings; the terrain slopes gently to the west boundary. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass, with widely scattered juniper on the west side.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five reservoirs, one mile of fence, one borrow pit adjacent to the county road, and about five miles of vehicle ways. In general, these developments are dispersed, or are adjacent to the boundary roads and are not substantially noticeable. The only exceptions are the borrow pit and about two miles of way which follow a drainage through the north end of the ridgeline. The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: Although the area is divided by a major ridgeline, the subunit lacks sufficient topographic screening to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It has no vegetative screening. Broad vistas from higher points provide views of much of the subunit; and the relatively flat to gently rolling topography in the bulk of the area would not allow a visitor to screen himself from the presence of others.

Recreation: The area provides opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, hunting, and viewing scenery (off-site). None of the opportunities for any of these activities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This subunit offers scenic views of areas outside the subunit, including the Sheepshead Mountains to the east, the nothern end of the Steens Mountain on the west, and adjacent subunits to the south.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit F appears to be in a basically natural condition, but the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-72G

Description

Size: 10,035 acres.

Location: 12 miles south of Folly Farm and 22 miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a State section on the east and west and a small parcel of private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This area, although smaller, is quite similar to Subunit F. It consists of a dominant ridgeline running from north to south, which drops off abruptly to flat land and intermittent lakes on the east, and slopes gradually to the west with gently rolling hills and small drainages. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, rabbitbrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains four reservoirs, one well, and about two miles of fence. None of these developments are substantially noticeable and the area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: Much of this subunit is flat to gently rolling with little opportunity for an individual to find a secluded spot. The dominant ridge which runs through the area is quite steep, has little diversity (i.e., no major canyons), and provides views of most of the subunit. These factors, combined with the lack of vegetative screening, reduce the opportunities for solitude within this subunit to less than outstanding.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and viewing scenery. The opportunites for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area offers views of the surrounding landscape outside the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the area appears to be in a generally natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-72H

Description

Size: 11,410 acres.

Location: 16 miles southwest of Folly Farm and 26 miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by private land; on the east by private land, State land, and a BLM road; on the south by a BLM road and adjacent public land; and on the west by State land, private land, and a county road.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is dominated by a large ridge running through the center of the area from north to south. To the

west of the ridge, gently rolling hills and small ridges are typical as the land slopes to the west boundary. The east slope of the ridge is quite steep,and east of the ridge are several intermittent lakes with a few small rimrock-edged buttes along the east boundary. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit contains two substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seedings along the west side of the area. In total, these seedings comprise approximately 1,500 acres. In addition, the area contains two reservoirs, several stock tanks along the south boundary road, about threemiles of fence, and approximately ten miles of vehicle ways. In general, these developments are not substantially noticeable (with the possible exception of portions of the vehicle ways from higher points), and most of the area appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit contains little or no vegetative screening, and the topography within the area, although somewhat diverse, is generally open, providing few secluded areas. Most of the area is visible from the ridgeline in the center of the subunit. Because of the lack of topographic or vegetative screening, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and viewing scenery. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: Off-site scenic values of the surrounding area (including the Steens Mountain and adjacent subunits) exist within this subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit generally appears to be in a natural condition with the exception of 1,500 acres of seeding, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-72I

Description

Size: 38,855 acres of public land; inholdings of 1,280 acres of State land.

Location: 12 miles south of Folly Farm and 16 miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of two parcels of private land on the south, two sections of State land on the west and a section of State land at the end of a dead-end road entering the subunit from the east side.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a variety of topographic features, including a large playa along the south boundary, many steep ridgelines scattered throughout the subunit, several small, flat-topped buttes, and one large, flat-topped butte (Table Mountain) in the north central portion. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains about 14 reservoirs, three miles of fence, and approximately 12 miles of vehicle ways. With the exception of a group of reservoirs along the east boundary, and portions of the ways, the developments are not substantially noticeable. This is primarily due to their dispersement and topographic screening. The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Although the area lacks vegetative screening, its size and the diversity of topography combine to create many areas where an individual could find a secluded spot. This subunit has outstanding opportunties for solitude.

Recreation: This area offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and viewing wildlife. The variety of the topography and elevation extremes within the area create a suitable challenge for any hiker. In addition, the opportunities for viewing scenery within the unit are exceptional. This subunit offers outstanding opportunities for several recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: Within and around the playa lakebed along the south boundary several springs exist. This area, primarily because of the springs and the meadows they support, provide habitat for sage grouse and winter range for deer. In addition, cultural resources of various types were observed within the subunit. This area also provides points where off-site scenery can be viewed, including the Steens Mountain and adjacent subunits.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 38,855-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. In addition, the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-72J

Description

Size: 7,755 acres of public land; an inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 21 miles southwest of Folly Farm and 27 miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public lands.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a moderate-sized ridgeline near the west side of the area; it slopes gently toward that boundary. The steep east side of the ridge drops sharply into a relatively flat portion of the subunit. The east side contains widely scattered buttes. The vegetation is mostly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: With the exception of scattered stock water tanks on the west and north boundaries, no man-made developments are located in this subunit. The area appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: Because of the lack of vegetative screening and the general lack of topographic screening, there are few areas where an individual could escape the presence of others within the subunit. Much of the subunit is visible from the ridgeline.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and viewing wildlife; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers scenic views of Steens Mountain and adjacent subunits.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-72N

Description

Size: 5,310 acres.

Location: 26 miles southwest of Folly Farm and 29 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by a BLM road in the north, a BLM road and a State section on the east, a BLM road and private land on the south, and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature in the subunit is a ridgeline which runs from north to south along the east boundary. The remainder of the area is flat to gently rolling. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains approximately five miles of vehicle ways, three miles of fenceline, a borrow pit, and about 1,800 acres of a subtantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding. All of these developments occur in the flatland on the west side of the subunit. Because of the size of the seeding (in relation to the size of the subunit) and the presence of the other developments, this area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The lack of topographic or vegetative screening within this area does not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, and viewing wildlife. These opportunities are not outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers scenic views of the Steens Mountain and surrounding subunits.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The presence of the crested wheatgrass seeding and other developments on the west side of the area makes the area appear to be in a generally unnatural condition. In addition, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-73

Unit Name: Winter Range

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-73 contains 71,750 acres of public land. Roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the area into eight subunits. Two of these subunits contain less than 5,000

acres, ranging in size from 865 to 1,125 acres. These two subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria and are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-73A

Description

Size: 21,395 acres of public land; an inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 25 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small portion of private land on the north.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a variety of topographic features. The southwest corner contains a portion of the Alvord Desert Sand Dunes east of the desert playa. The northern portion of the area contains a small playa and Mickey Hot Springs. Through the center of the subunit a ridgeline divides the flat desert to the west from the rolling hills to the east. This ridgeline and the associated hills are disected by numerous small intermittent streams which create a diverse landscape. The vegetation within the subunit is predominantly sagebrush and grass; however, the dune area on the southwest contains a wide variety of desert species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This area contains approximately three miles of vehicle way, one well with a windmill and five reservoirs all located adjacent to the boundary. These developments are not substantially noticeable and the area appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit contains little or no vegetative screening. However, the size of the subunit combined with the diversity of the topography (especially on the east side) creates numerous areas where an individual can find outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. Of these activities, the best opportunities within the area are for hiking; however, none of these activities appear to be outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes which occur along the southwest side of the subunit provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals and may be of scientific value. This subunit also provides scenic views of the Alvord Desert, Pueblo Mountains, Steens Mountain, and the south end of the Sheepshead Mountains.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 21,395-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Although the area does not offer outstanding recreational opportunities it does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Subunit Number: 2-73B

Description

Size: 5,505 acres of public land; an inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 28 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit B is basically an extension of the rolling terrain found on the east side of Subunit A. However, the hills in this area are generally less pronounced as the land flattens out along the east boundary. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two reservoirs, a well, and about two miles of vehicle ways. These developments are located near the road boundaries and are not substantially noticeable imprints of man.

Solitude: This subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Because of the lack of vegetative screening and the general lack of topographic diversity, combined with the relatively small size of the area, the subunit would not provide a visitor with an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking and horseback riding, with minimal opportunities for hunting and viewing wildlife. None of these activities appear to be outstanding within this subunit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a relatively natural condition, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-73E

Description

Size: 5,845 acres.

Location: 23 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: With the exception of a State section on the north, the subunit is bounded by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is basically flat to gently rolling on the east with small hills divided by intermittent stream drainages on the west. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five reservoirs and about two miles of vehicle ways. These developments are located near the subunit's boundaries and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Due to the general lack of topographic or vegetative screening, combined with the relatively small size of the subunit, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Subunit E offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife and horseback riding. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. However, the area does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-73F

Description

Size: 11,215 acres.

Location: 21 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a portion of State land on the south.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Although the subunit contains several areas of gently rolling hills and a small area of sand dunes, there are no dominant physical features within the area. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains one reservoir near the eastboundary, and it is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The relatively flat topography and low growing vegetation would not screen users from each other. Because of the lack of screening and the subunit's relatively small size, it would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding; however, none of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition, it does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-73G

Description

Size: 11,160 acres.

Location: 14 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: With the exception of State parcels on the northeast and west, the unit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is primarily flat in the south and gently rolling in the north. A small valley runs east-west through the center of the area providing the north boundary for the flat terrain to the south. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately ten reservoirs. In general, these reservoirs are located near the perimeter of the subunit and are not substantially noticeable. The area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit generally lacks sufficient topographic or vegetative screening for an individual to find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding. None of these activities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition; the impact of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. The area does not, however, offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-73H

Description

Size: 14,640 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 20 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a corner of State land on the east and two parcels of private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of steep-sloped ridges rising to flat-topped buttes. The area is dissected by numerous intermittent streams. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a well, five reservoirs, approximately two miles of vehicle ways, and one mile of fence. These developments are generally located near the perimeter of the subunit and are not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Despite the lack of vegetative screening available within the subunit, the topographic diversity creates pockets where a visitor could obtain a feeling of isolation. This subunit appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Subunit H offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and viewing wildlife. Of these activities, there are probably more opportunities for hiking than for the others. However, none of these opportunities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This subunit offers off-site scenic views of the south end of the Sheepshead Mountains to the north and Steens Mountain to the west.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,640-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Although the subunit does not offer outstandingopportunties for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, it appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, we found it difficult to evaluate the opportunities for solitude in the subunit; and we will give particular attention to public comments when we re-evaluate the wilderness characteristics before we decide whether to identify the subunit as a wilderness study area.

Unit Number: 2-75

Unit Name: Black Point

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-75 contains 51,300 acres of public land. Roads divide the unit into nine subunits. Seven of these subunits are less than 5,000 acres (ranging from 180 to 3,515 acres) do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not discussed.

Subunit Number: 2-75A

Description

Size: 15,230 acres of public land; 320 acres in an inholding of State land and 320 acres in a private inholding.

Location: Adjacent to and directly east of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by a powerline access road and adjacent public land; on the east by a BLM road with adjacent public land; on the south by private land; and on the west by Fields, private land, a county road, and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of the flat bottom land of the southern end of the Alvord Basin. In the northern portion of the subunit stabilized sand dunes provide minor topographic relief. The remainder of the subunit is essentially flat. Trout Creek, an intermittent stream, flows through the center of the subunit. The dunes contain a variety of plant species. Sagebrush and salt desert shrub species predominate throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains 15 miles of vehicle ways, one well, five miles of powerline right of way and associated access way, a power substation, an airstrip, a landfill, and about six miles of irrigation ditches. Most of these developments occur in the eastern half of the subunit, but their cumulative impact is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The lack of topographic or vegetative screening within this area prevents the subunit from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and viewing wildlife, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes contain a variety of plants and animals. This diversity is of environmental and educational interest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit no longer appears to be in a natural condition as man's imprint is substantially noticeable. In addition, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-75C

Description

Size: 28,320 acres of public land; two inholdings of State land (960 acres).

Location: Six miles east of Fields.

Boundaries: Subunit 2-75C is bounded on the north by a powerline access road and adjacent public land, and on the remaining sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small corner of State land on the west and a large portion of private land on the southwest. A small adjustment in the boundary on the west side was made (enlarging the subunit by approximately 610 acres) because a portion of the original boundary was determined not to be a road.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a variety of physical features. The subunit is predominantly a series of sloping ridges in a desert plateau. The northern portion rises abruptly above the adjacent Alvord Basin to the west. The central portion contains several small playas and is flat to gently rolling as are the valley areas between the ridges. In the southwestern portion the ridges are more pronounced as the land drops off into the Trout Creek drainage. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit appears to be relatively free of the imprint of man. The area contains 14 miles of vehicle ways, one reservoir, three wildlife guzzlers, and a portion of the Flagstaff seeding. These developments are dispersed throughout the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The gently rolling topography which comprises the majority of this subunit, the broad sloping nature of the ridges, and the low vegetative cover do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Visitors to this area would not have substantial opportunities to screen themselves from the presence of others.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rockhounding, hunting, and viewing wildlife. However, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit 2-75C appears to be in a generally natural condition, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-77

Unit Name: Mahogany Ridge

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-77 contains 42,368 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into nine subunits. Seven of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging in size from eight acres to 3,070 acres. These seven subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-77A

Description

Size: 14,340 acres of public land; with a 640-acre inholding of State land.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by a county road and private land and on the remaining sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small section of private land in the southeast.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains somewhat varied terrain. The west half is flat to gently rolling, while the east half is dominated by two flat-topped mesas divided by Stoney Creek. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass, with several kinds of riparian plants growing near Table Mountain Spring.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The east half contains four spring developments, four reservoirs and about two miles of fence. These developments are dispersed and are not substantially noticeable imprints of man. However, approximately 4,000 acres on the west side are significantly impacted by the works of man, including five miles of vehicle ways, five miles of powerline, a well, a developed spring, a reservoir, and a gravel pit. The concentration of developments in this area makes this portion of the subunit appear to be in a generally unnatural condition. A 3,000-acre crested wheatgrass seeding is also located within the subunit but is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The area not impacted by the man-made developments does not offer outstanding opportunites for a visitor to achieve solitude. The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening available on the mesas does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and rockhounding, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: With the exception of 4,000 acres on the west side of the subunit, the area appears to be in a basically natural condition. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-77B

Description

Size: 23,780 acres of public land, 400 acres of State inholdings, and 1,520 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 18 miles southeast of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by a mixture of private land and BLM roads with adjacent public land. Several small boundary errors were identified during the intensive inventory resulting in 480 acres being added to the subunit and 240 acres being transferred to Unit 2-78. The corrections are reflected in the acreage figures given above.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of three flat topped ridges which are deeply dissected by four major drainages. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush on the ridge tops. Riparian vegetation in the drainages includes aspen and brush. Scattered groves of aspen grow throughout much of this area; scattered juniper grows along Mahogany Ridge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Although this subunit contains nine reservoirs, three spring developments, and a 350-acre seeding, the area appears to be in a basically natural condition. Because these developments are dispersed, screened, or overgrown (the seeding), they are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The sparse vegetation and the wide sloping drainages which divide the flat-topped ridge offer little in the way of screening. In addition, the location and quantity of private land within the subunit detracts from the already poor configuration of the boundary and further limits the opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Subunit B offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, viewing wildlife and backpacking. These recreational opportunities are outstanding because of the quality of the hunting, fishing, and sightseeing activities and the variety of activities available.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 23,780-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: Although the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding within this subunit, the area appears to be in a basically natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-78

Unit Name: Red Mountain

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-78 contains 31,610 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into six subunits. Three of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging in size from 110 acres to 4,400 acres. These three subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below. Two of the three remaining subunits are contiguous with the Winnemucca District's Disaster Peak Unit NV-020-859

Subunit Number: 2-78D/3-153/NV-020-859

Subunit D contains 2,720 acres of public land in the Burns District. The subunit is adjacent to NV-020-859 of the Winnemucca District (9,700 acres) which, in turn, is adjacent to Vale District's Unit 3-153 (13,422 acres). The description and proposed decision for this subunit are contained in the narrative for 3-153.

Subunit Number: 2-78E/NV-020-859J

Description

Size: Subunit E contains 5,460 acres and is contiguous with Inventory Subunit NV-020-859J in the Winnemucca District. The Nevada portion contains 540 acres.

Location: 15 miles east of Denio in Harney County, Oregon, and Humbolt County, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by BLM roads and small parcels of State and private land on the north; BLM roads and adjacent public land on the east and south, and private land, a small portion of State land and a road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit lies within a portion of the Trout Creek Mountains. The topography consists of rounded hillsides with several intermittent streams running across the area to the southwest. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass throughout the area with some aspen occurring in the higher elevations along the east boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit E/859J contains one reservoir, five developed springs, one mile of vehicle way, and about three miles of fenceline. These developments are substantially unnoticeable and the area appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of vegetative screening and the broad open expanses are not conducive to finding a secluded spot. In addition, the portion of the subunit that is contiguous with Nevada narrows to less than one quarter mile before crossing the State line, with the Nevada portion being less than one mile wide at its widest point.

Recreation: The recreational activities offered within this area are primarily hiking and hunting, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, however, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-78F

Description

Size: 18,470 acres of public land. There are inholdings of 320 acres of State land and 80 acres of private land.

Location: Six miles northeast of Denio.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by a road and private land on the north and east; private land, State land, and a road on the south, and roads on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is located on the southwest edge of the Trout Creek Mountains. The topography includes the flat lowlands of the Pueblo Slough area in the west, foothills in the central portion, and Red Mountain in the east. The area contains several intermittent streams which flow to the west and dissect the topography. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass throughout most of the subunit, with salt desert shrub species occurring in the western lowlands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Along the north boundary a dead-end road, a buried pipeline, a ditch and a graded area adjacent to the ditch intrude one mile

into the subunit and have substantial impacts on approximately 300 acres. The remainder of the subunit contains four reservoirs, five spring developments, ten miles of fenceline, 11 miles of vehicle ways, one mile of ditch and an overgrown crested wheatgrass seeding. These developments are dispersed and well screened and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Although the subunit does not contain a substantial amount of vegetative screening, it does possess topographic diversity. This diversity is characteristic of much of the subunit (expecially the central and eastern portions) and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. These opportunties, however, do not include the northwest corner of the subunit. In this portion, the one-mile intrusion mentioned under "Naturalness" above, ends less than one-eighth mile from another dead-end road which enters the subunit from the west. This near intersection essentially cuts off a 3,440-acre portion of the northwest corner; it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, and sightseeing (on and off-site). The diversity in terrain provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing. The 3,440 acre-area in the northwest corner does not provide outstanding opportunities for any of these activities.

Supplemental Values: The subunit possesses evidence of cultural resources and off-site scenic values of the surrounding area (Pueblo Mountains, Steens Mountain and mountainous terrain in Nevada).

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,730-acre wilderness study area; eliminate 3,740 acres because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: A 14,730-acre area appears to be in a generally natural condition and possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. A 300-acre parcel along the northern boundary is substantially affected by man's work. In addition, a 3,440-acre section is nearly cut off from the bulk of the unit by the area which lacks naturalness and a near intersection with a dead-end road. This portion of the subunit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-80/NV-020-609

Unit Name: Sand Hills/Maggie Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-80 is contiguous with the Winnemucca District's Maggie Creek Unit (NV-020-609). Together these units total 35,584 acres of public land (14,990 acres in Oregon). The unit as a whole is divided by roads into six subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and range in size from 703 acres to 2,425 acres. These small subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-80A/NV-020-609

Description

Size: 9,970 acres of public land. The Nevada portion (NV-020-609) includes 11,114 acres. There are inholdings of 640 acres of State land and 160 acres of private land.

Location: Five miles east of Denio, in Harney County, Oregon, and Humbolt County, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by private land, on the east by private land and a BLM road with adjacent public land, on the south by a road; and on the west by private land and a road.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain in the north with slightly steeper topography in the south. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush with some salt desert shrub species in the north and west. Some scattered patches of aspen occur in the drainages in the south end.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains five reservoirs, a developed spring, one well with a windmill, and many miles of vehicle ways. These developments are individually noticeable and have a cumulative impact that makes the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: This subunit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area lacks sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to allow a visitor to find a secluded spot away from the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be in a basically natural condition as the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. In addition, the area does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-80C/NV-020-609A

Description

Size: 3,870 acres. The Nevada portion (Subunit NV-020-609A) contains 5,507 acres.

Location: Adjacent to and directly east of Denio in Harney County, Oregon, and Humbolt County, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads and adjacent public land on the north and east; and by private land and roads on the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit is mostly flat. It is the southernmost end of the Pueblo Valley and contains the Crescent Dunes which provide the only topographic relief. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, salt desert shrub species and tall grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains a well, several miles of vehicle ways, a dump site and an old crested wheatgrass seeding. The dump site is a substantially noticeable intrusion, visible throughout much of the subunit. This impact, especially in addition to the other developments, makes man's imprint substantially noticeable within the area.

Solitude: The basically flat topography and low vegetation do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hiking but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit contains a large portion of the Crescent Dunes which may be of scientific or educational interest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 2-83

Unit Name: Alvord Peak

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-83 contains 39,580 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into five subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 contiguous acres of public land (ranging from 200 to 3,300 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-83A

Description

Size: 31,320 acres of public land, with inholdings of 1,200 acres of State land, and 880 acres of private land.

Location: About four miles north of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land and roads with adjacent public land on the north; private land, a county road and BLM roads on the east; private land, State land, and a county road on the south; and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is varied. The west half is gently rolling with some foothills and ridges. The eastern half of the area rises abruptly from the surrounding terrain and contains steep sloped buttes and peaks, including Alvord Peak (7,130 feet). The vegetation includes sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush and grasses with a few widely scattered junipers.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding (1,380 acres) along the east boundary. In addition, approximately 6,100 acres in the central portion do not appear to be in a basically natural condition because of seven reservoirs and eight miles of vehicle ways concentrated within this area. Finally, a substantially noticeable powerline intermittently crosses the southern boundary and affects about 1,240 acres. The remainder of the subunit appears to be in a natural condition although it contains widely scattered vehicle ways, mine workings and a substantially unnoticeable powerline.

Solitude: The west portion of the subunit is separated from the rest of the subunit by the 6,100-acre developed area in the unit's center. The 7,945-acre west portion contains no vegetative cover and very limited topographic screening. Bacause of the area's lack of screening and relatively small size, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The east portion of the subunit (14,655 acres) possesses much more varied topography which creates opportunities for finding a secluded spot. This eastern portion offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities offered within this subunit include hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, sightseeing, and rockhounding. None of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Portions of the east side of the subunit contain interesting geological formations. Cultural resources of various types were observed within this area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,655-acre wilderness study area, eliminate 16,665 acres because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area appears to be relatively free of the imprint of man's work and possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remainder of the area lacks wilderness characteristics because of the substantial imprint of man's works (1,380 acres of seeding, 6,100 acres impacted by reservoirs and ways, and 1,240 acres affected by a powerline) and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude in 7,945 acres in the west end. The entire subunit lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-84

Unit Name: Basque Hills

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-84 contains 148,290 acres of public land. Roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the unit into five subunits. Three of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land (ranging from 2,290 to 3,880 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria, and are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-84A

Description

Size: 87,400 acres of public land, with inholdings consisting of one 640-acre section of State land, and one 320-acre parcel of private land.

Location: 15 miles northwest of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land, State land, and a road with adjacent public land on the north; and roads with adjacent public lands and scattered State parcels on the remaining sides.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant topographic feature of this subunit consists of a plateau region with scattered foothills and areas of rimrock scattered through the area. The eastern quarter of the subunit is made up of the south end of the Catlow Valley which is quite flat and contains several shallow lakebeds. West of the valley and across the remainder of the subunit, rimrock areas mark the edges of flat-topped

plateaus. Several major rims are scattered throughout this western portion including Fish Fin Rim in the northwestern corner. The vegetation within the subunit includes sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and grasses with some scattered species of salt desert shrub in the east.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: This subunit contains approximately 20 miles of fence, 30 miles of vehicle ways, 11 reservoirs, two wells, and a one-half mile ditch. These developments are well dispersed throughout the area, and are not substantially noticeable imprints of man. The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Although this subunit is large, the general lack of topographic or vegetative screening available within the area allows for broad vistas of the surrounding terrain and provides little opportunity for a visitor to find a secluded spot. The area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife, and hunting. However, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area provides winter range for antelope.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit is large and appears to be substantially free of the imprint of man's work. However, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for visitors to achieve a sense of solitude or to have a primitive and unconfined type of recreation experience.

Subunit Number: 2-84B

Description

Size: 52,320 acres of public land; two inholdings of State land totaling 1,280 acres.

Location: 15 miles west of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads with adjacent public land and scattered sections of State land with the exception of a small parcel of private land on the southwest.

Physical Characteristics: The area is composed of a plateau region with some scattered buttes and foothills. The northeastern portion of the subunit contains the southern end of the Catlow Valley and is mostly flat with some scattered playas. The remainder of the area consists of a series of rimrock edged terraces running from north to south. These terraces are mostly flat to gently rolling with the greatest topographic diversity occurring in the central portion of the subunit where the foothills and buttes are more common. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and rabbit brush throughout the area, with salt desert shrub species occurring in the northeast portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains about 12 miles of fence, 17 miles of vehicle ways, six reservoirs, two guzzlers and approximately 1,300 acres of the Hawk Valley seeding. With the exception of the seeding, the

developments appear to be substantially unnoticeable because of their dispersement. The seeding, however, is quite noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit offers limited opportunities for achieving an outstanding sense of solitude. The rolling hills and buttes in the center of the area offer the best opportunities, but the broad distances between these features and the lack of vegetative screening prevent this from being outstanding. The remainder of the subunit, with its basically flat terrain and low vegetation, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude even though the area is large.

Recreation: This area offers opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and viewing wildlife. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this subunit.

Supplemental Values: The area provides winter range for antelope.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the exception of a 1,300-acre portion of the Hawk Valley seeding. The area does not, however, offer outstanding opportunites for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-85

Unit Name: South Steens

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-85 contains 147,815 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic lands into fourteen subunits. Ten of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 15 to 3,570 acres. None of these ten subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and they are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-85F

Description

Size: 71,010 acres of public land; 2,820 acres of private inholdings

Location: 15 miles southeast of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private and public land define its northern boundary; private land, six dead-end roads, and a county road define its eastern boundary; private and State land and three miles of dead-end roads define its southern boundary; while public, State and private land, a dead-end road, and roads define its western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography offers a variety of features which are the result of vulcanism, faulting, glaciation, and erosion. The western portion of the area is characterized by rolling foothill country and canyon drainages. Moving eastward, climbing the giant Steens Mountain fault block, one encounters U-shaped glaciated gorges, subalpine and alpine grasslands, and the Steens Mountain Rim area. The rim area is characterized by steep, eastward flowing gorges and drainages defined by rugged escarpments which drop to the desert floor and the eastern edge of the unit. The elevation varies from 4,100 to 9,715 feet. The general vegetative complex for the lower elevations of the area is characterized by

sagebrush, grass, and juniper. The higher rim areas contain subalpine and alpine type grassland. Thickets of aspen, willow, alder, and other water-dependent species occupy spots in the drainages. There are boggy areas and meadow areas throughout the drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains several mined areas with tunnels, shafts, habitations and some tailings; three water developments in the southeast corner; 12 miles of ways along the eastern side, 12 miles of ways along the west side, and two miles of fenceline. The cumulative effect of these developments on the naturalness of this subunit is not substantial. The dispersion of the developments, the varied topographic and vegetative cover, and the large size of the subunit provide excellent screening for the improvements making most of the unit appear natural. The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable in three areas (totaling 830 acres) along the east boundary that have powerlines and a group of mining habitations. The flat to rolling topography in these areas does not sufficiently screen these developments.

Solitude: Three areas totaling 2,860 acres have narrow neck-like configurations (one-eighth mile wide). These areas would not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the users' inability to avoid the presence of others. The rest of Subunit 2-85F with its large size, rugged and varied terrain, and good vegetative cover provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. The variety of vegetative and geologic and zoologic features offer a high degree of physical and mental inspiration to the user. There are three areas within this subunit (totaling 2,860 acres) which do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to their narrow, one-eighth mile wide configuration. These areas are small, have very irregularly shaped boundaries, and are sandwiched between roads and private land.

Supplemental Values: The Steens fault zone offers valued opportunities for geologic education. There is a concentration of State and/or Federally listed threatened or endangered plants in the high alpine areas of the Steens Mountain. There are also a number of species endemic to the area. Mosquito Creek has a unique State species, the Alvord cutthroat trout. California Bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer use the area year-round. Evidence of cultural resources have been found within the area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 67,320-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 3,690 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work making it basically natural. It offers outstanding opportunties for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include the 30-acre area with a group of mining habitations and the three areas with powerlines totaling 800 acres where the imprints of man's works are substantially noticeable. In addition, 2,860 acres in the three areas with narrow neck configurations do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-85G

Description

Size: 35,870 acres of public land. There are 1,280 acres of private inholdings and 1,280 acres of State inholdings.

Location: 15 miles southeast of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private and public land and roads define the area's eastern and southern boundaries; public land and roads bound the subunit on the west and north.

Physical Characteristics: The area is characterized by gently rolling topography which gradually rises in elevation as one travels eastward from approximately 5,600 to 6,000 feet. The Donner and Blitzen River and Indian Creek have formed predominant drainages in the eastern portion of the area. The rest of the area has shallow intermittent streams. The general vegetative cover for the subunit is sagebrush, grass, and juniper. The perennial drainages hold water tolerant species such as willow and alder.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Developments include six reservoirs (five of these are along the western boundary road); 21 miles of ways found throughout the area and Blitzen Crossing Campground along the northern boundary road. In general, the developments are sufficiently dispersed throughout the subunit so that the rolling topography and the sage/juniper vegetative cover adequately screens and makes the developments substantially unnoticeable. The 20-acre Blitzen Crossing Campground is a substantially noticeable development, with toilets, campsites, and picnic areas.

Solitude: The average east-west length of the area is seven and one-half miles and the average north-south breadth is five and one-half miles. The gradually inclining topography and its accompanying low sagebrush vegetation offer limited screening in the western two-thirds of the area. The eastern one-third of the subunit with the Donner and Blitzen and Deep Creek drainages, ridge topography and juniper cover offers some opportunities for screening visitors from each other. However, finding a secluded spot in a majority of the subunit is not possible due to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, hunting, and fishing. The user has no opportunity to experience outstanding primitive and unconfinced recreation in this area.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of cultural resources has been found within this area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition with the exception of 20 acres in and around the Blitzen Crossing Campground. However, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-85H

Description

Size: 24,990 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of State land inholdings and 80 acres of private land inholding.

Location: 12 miles south of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private and State land define the south boundary; private land, State land, and a road define the west boundary; while public and private land, and roads define its north and east boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The area is characterized by a steep rim on its most west edge and gradual south and eastward inclining topography. The elevation varies from 4,600 feet to over 6,000 feet. The western rim elevation is from 5,200 to 5,400 feet. From the rim area the elevation changes gradually (600 to 800 feet) through the rest of the subunit. Three Mile Creek, Home Creek, Dry Creek, and Roaring Springs Canyon are dominant east/west drainage features. Home and Three Mile Canyons contain perennial creeks. Grass, sagebrush, and juniper are the dominant vegetative species, with willow, alder, and other water dependent plant species found in the riparian zones along the creeks.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains six reservoirs scattered along the eastern boundary road, four miles of ways, and 12 miles of fenceline just inside the midwestern and mideastern boundary of this area. These developments do not affect the general natural appearance of the subunit because they are sufficiently dispersed throughout the subunit making the area seem generally unaffected by the works of man.

Solitude: The average east-west breadth is five miles and the average north-south length is six miles for this subunit. The canyon areas offer good opportunities to find a secluded spot, however, they comprise a small part of the total subunit. The area above them is sloping to flat and is vegetated with sagebrush and scattered juniper. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting areas have been found within the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; however, this area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-85I

Description

Size: 10,030 acres of public land; 40 acres of private land inholding.

Location: Eight miles south of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Public land and roads form the north and east boundaries; public land, private land, and a road define the south boundary; and private land, public land, and a county road define the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The area is characterized by a steep western rim area and gradually rising ridge topography as one moves from west to east. Kueny Canyon, Black Canyon, and Roaring Springs hold intermittent streams in steep canyons (100 to 400 feet deep). The elevation ranges from 4,373 to 5,724 feet. Grass, sagebrush and juniper are the dominant vegetative species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include two reservoirs, one in the center of the area, and the other in the southeastern corner; a powerline cutting through the northern corner of the area; one mile of fenceline protruding into the area from the northwest; and five miles of ways in the southern portion of the unit. Most of the area appears to be effected basically by the forces of nature due to its rolling ridge topography and the dispersion of the developments, making them substantially unnoticeable. The area in the north with the powerline is relatively flat country and here the development is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The average east-west breadth of the area is three miles, while the average north-south length is four miles. The canyon ridge topography with its accompanying juniper cover creates some screening possibilities. Because of the narrow breadths and lack of good screening, the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting possibilities. The opportunities for any of these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of a concentration of golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting areas has been found in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable with the exception of a 45-acre area in the northwest. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-86

Unit Name: Blitzen River

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-86 contains 76,500 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into seven subunits. Five of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging from 160 to 4,900 acres. These five subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-86E

Description

Size: 58,560 acres of public land. There are inholdings of 720 acres of private land and 520 acres of State land.

Location: Adjacent to and directly south of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: With the exception of a small amount of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land on the north, the subunit is bounded entirely by a mixture of private land, State land, and roads (including portions of the Steens Mountain Loop Road on the north and south).

Physical Characteristics: This subunit primarily consists of the high desert plateau which forms the western slope of the Steens Mountain. The dominant feature within the subunit is the Donner and Blitzen River. This canyon ranges from one-fourth to one-half mile wide, is approximately ten miles long, and reaches 700 feet in depth as it runs from north to south across the subunit. West of the Donner and Blitzen River the topography consists of rolling hills and small rimrock edged ridges. To the east of the river the plateau rises sharply and the topography becomes much more pronounced. The vegetation is also varied, with stands of juniper occurring on the west side, and quaking aspen, mountain mahogany and mountain meadows occurring frequently on the east side. The canyons contain riparian plant species with some juniper and mountain mahogany. Sagebrush and grass are common throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately 6,500 acres do not appear to be in a natural condition because they are affected by substantially noticeable imprints of man including a powerline (2,850 acres), a concentration of reservoirs (3,510 acres), and a crested wheatgrass seeding (140 acres). The remainder of the subunit contains 20 reservoirs, 12 miles of fence, and approximately 35 miles of vehicle ways. These latter developments are well dispersed, overgrown, or otherwise screened so as not to appear substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of the topographic and vegetative screening available within much of the area, the subunit provides many places for visitors to find a secluded spot. These factors, combined with the area's relatively large size and compact shape, create outstanding opportunities forsolitude.

Recreation: This subunit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, viewing wildlife, sightseeing, photography, hunting, and fishing. Because of the quantity and quality of the recreational activities offered within this area, the subunit has outstanding opportunities for the pursuit of primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: The subunit contains a large concentration of raptor nesting sites within the rocky gorges of the canyons. Portions of the area have been identified as crucial deer habitat and sage grouse booming grounds. Cultural resources of various types have also been identified within the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 52,060-acre wilderness study area; eliminate 6,500 acres because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: With the exception of 6,500 acres, the area appears to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. In addition, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-86F

Description

Size: 9,380 acres.

Location: 14 miles southeast of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land and roads (including the Steens Mountain Loop Road) on the north, by the Loop Road on the east and south, and by private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit F contains the upper end of Little Blitzen Gorge, a glaciated canyon on the west side of the Steens summit. This U-shaped canyon is characterized by steep canyon walls and a perennial stream. The subunit contains a wide variety of vegetation, including aspen on the plateau which surrounds the canyon, on the side slopes, and along the river; mountain mahogany on the slopes; juniper in the lower elevations; sagebrush in the valley floor; and riparian species along the river. The area also contains a wide variety of smaller plants including endemic species and rare or endangered species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately four miles of vehicle ways all occurring on the plateau above the gorge. About two of these miles are substantially noticeable imprints because of the heavy use they receive and their visability from the surrounding area. There are no other substantial developments within the subunit.

Solitude: The vegetative screening which occurs throughout the gorge provides opportunities for visitors to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of others within the area. This factor combined with the topographic relief found in the subunit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities offered within this subunit include hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, photography and viewing wildlife. Because of the quality and quantity of these activities the opportunities for recreation are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This subunit contains features of geological, botanical, and general scientific value because of its location within a glaciated gorge and the presence of various rare and endemic plant species. Cultural resources of various types were also observed within this area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 9,380-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition. In addition, the area possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-87

Unit Name: Bridge Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-87 contains 28,470 acres. The intensive inventory of the area identified roads which divide the unit into nine subunits. Eight of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land, and no longer meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The subunits range in size from 730 to 3,290 acres, and are not described below.

Subunit Name: 2-87I

Description

Size: 16,470 acres of public land; 480 acres of State land inholdings.

Location: Two and one-half miles east of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by BLM roads and adjacent public land; on the east by private land, on the south by State land and a road with adjacent public land, and on the west by the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit consists of the rolling to sloping foothills of the Steens Mountain fault block. Mud Creek, Little Bridge Creek, and Big Bridge Creek run westerly across the subunit into the Donner and Blitzen Valley. These drainages provide steep canyons and rimrock areas that add definition to the landscape. The vegetation in the canyons is chokecherry, cottonwood, juniper, and willow. The eastern portion of the subunit has a dominant cover of juniper. Sagebrush and grass dominate the western portion of the area, although juniper can be found in patches throughout this area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains an 820-acre drilled seeding in the southwestern corner which is a substantially noticeable imprint of man. In addition, six and one-half miles of fenceline, 13 reservoirs, and five and one-half miles of vehicle ways are found throughout the remainder of the area, but they are not substantially noticeable. The area for the most part is natural except for the seeding.

Solitude: Most of the subunit consists of open rolling hills. There are a few areas with juniper cover, mainly in the eastern portion of the subunit. These areas offer very poor opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The drainages provide areas where a visitor could find a secluded spot. There are some areas with dense vegetative cover in the canyons. The canyon areas, however, do not provide outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others because of their narrow width.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for fishing, hunting (mule deer, Pronghorn antelope, quail, chuckars, and sage grouse), hiking, sightseeing, and horseback riding, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit has areas that are good for raptor nesting (golden eagle). A sage grouse booming ground is located in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness study.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, except in the seeding area. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-88

Unit Name: Moon Hill

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: The Moon Hill unit located eight miles northeast of Frenchglen in Harney County contains 9,900 acres of public land. The intensive inventory of this area identified roads and non-BLM land which divide the unit into five subunits. All of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging in size from 800 to 4,590 acres. None of these subunits meet any of the minimum size requirements for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of the subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Unit Number: 2-91

Unit Name: Guano Slough

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-91 contains 22,165 acres. The intensive inventory identified roads which divide the unit into six subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 90 to 1,540 acres. They do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-91A

Description

Size: 12,730 acres of public land; inholdings of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 22 miles southwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Public land and a road form the subunit's east boundary; a patchwork of public and private land form its southern boundary; public land and a road form its west boundary; and public, private land, and a road form its north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the area is defined by gently sloping hills in the western quarter of the subunit, and flat lowlands in the remainder of the subunit. The general elevation is 4,616 feet. The general vegetation is sagebrush and grass. There are areas of meadowland in the eastern portion of the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit 2-91A has nine miles of fenceline near its south and east boundaries and three miles of ways close to its northwest boundary. The developments are sufficiently dispersed to make them substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The gently sloping hills and flat areas and the low sagebrush vegetation offers little screening for the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The size of this subunit is not large enough to compensate for the lack of screening. The opportunity to find solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The opportunities to find outstanding

primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding however, due to the size of the unit and the lack of topographic and vegetative variety.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunties for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-91B

Description

Size: 7,530 acres.

Location: 20 miles southwest of Frenchglen.

Boundary: Private land forms the area's north boundary; public and private land and a road form its east boundary; public and private land form its southern boundary; and public land and a road form its west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The general elevation of the area is about 4,600 feet. The topography is flat lowland with a vegetative cover of sagebrush and grass. There are areas of meadowland.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit 2-91B contains three and one-half miles of fenceline. The rest of the area appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: No outstanding opportunity to achieve solitude is possible in this subunit with its flat topographic relief and low sagebrush/grass vegetation.

Recreation: No features are found within this area to make the visitor's opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding) outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit is generally free of the imprints of man's work making it basically natural. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-92

Unit Name: Dead Horse

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-92 contains 36,970 acres. The intensive inventory identified a number of roads that divide the unit into five subunits. Four of them contain less than 5,000 acres, do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not discussed below. The four subunits contain between 1,100 and 3,890 acres.

Subunit Number: 2-92A

Description

Size: 28,530 acres of public land. There are three State land inholdings totaling 1,920 acres.

Location: Approximately 18 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: Roads and adjacent public land form the boundaries except for a private land parcel on the north side and two State land parcels on the west side.

Physical Characteristics: The general topography consists of a vast open landscape with rolling hills throughout the entire subunit. Several rim areas and dry lakebeds can be found. Big sagebrush with an understory of perennial bunchgrass, annual grasses, and Sandberg's bluegrass are the common vegetation types. Rabbitbrush occurs on disturbed sites.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains nine reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, a three-mile long cat trail, and three and a half miles of fenceline (in the south). The dispersement of these developments over a large area results in the subunit appearing to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The rim areas offer some topographic screening. However, insufficient vegetative screening and great open expanses prevent visitors from achieving an outstanding sense of solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hunting and hiking are present in this area, however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit lies within an avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It offers no opportunity for an outstanding experience of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-93

Unit Name: South Bollenbaugh

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-93 contains 20,545 acres. The unit is divided by a road into two subunits. Both of the subunits are described below.

Subunit Number: 2-93A

Description

Size: 7,170 acres.

Location: 15 miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded on the north by a BLM road and adjacent public land; on the east by private land, State land, and a BLM road with adjacent public lands; and on the southwest by private land, and a BLM road and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is basically flat to gently rolling with two small rims (each less than a mile in length) in the northeast corner. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass in the areas that have not been seeded.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five miles of powerlines, three miles of vehicle ways, three miles of fence, one reservoir, and 1,280 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. The seeding and the powerlines are substantially noticeable and if excluded from the subunit would reduce the acreage to less than 5,000 acres. The imprint of man's work within the subunit is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The low vegetation and lack of topographic diversity would not allow a visitor to find a secluded spot anywhere within this area. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The presence of a 1,280 acre crested wheatgrass seeding, five miles of powerline, and other developments makes the area appear to be in a generally unnatural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-93B

Description

Size: 13,375 acres of public land with one 640-acre private land inholding.

Location: 12 miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by private land, and a BLM road and adjacent public land; on the southeast by private land and two miles of State land; and on the west by State land and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the subunit is predominantly flat to gently rolling. The east side of the subunit features a low rim which is the eastern boundary of the plateau that makes up the bulk of the subunit. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two reservoirs, five miles of fence, and about six miles of vehicle ways. These developments are somewhat dispersed through the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The gently rolling topography and low vegetation which is common throughout this subunit provides no screening and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hunting (antelope). None of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 2-94

Unit Name: Walls Lake

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-94 contains 51,130 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into three subunits. One of these subunits contains 2,100 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria, and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-94A

Description

Size: 41,510 acres of public land. There are inholdings with 1,920 acres of State land in three one section parcels, and 280 acres of private land in one parcel.

Location: Eight miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The north boundary is formed by two sections of State land and BLM roads and adjacent public land; the east by BLM roads and adjacent public land, State land and private land; with the south and west boundaries comprised of private land, and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature of this unit is a low plateau which rises approximately 100 feet from the valley floor. This plateau is surrounded by rimrock and accounts for over two-thirds of the total land area which makes up this subunit. Small unspectacular canyons drain from the plateau to the flats below and provide some topographic relief around the perimeter of the plateau. Both the plateau and the lower valley are predominantly flat to gently rolling. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass throughout most of the unit, with some patches of rabbitbrush scattered through the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within this subunit there are 14 reservoirs, two wells, 17 miles of vehicle ways, 18 miles of fence and six miles of powerline. Although relatively well dispersed throughout the subunit, most of these developments occur in the lower valley lands near the perimeter of the plateau and are visible at many points around the subunit. The developments are substantially noticeable imprints of man.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are available within the small canyons which border the plateau, but their relatively narrow width, short length, and low vegetation would prevent any of these canyons from being outstanding. Both the plateau and valley areas provide little topographic or vegetative screening and do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers some opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife and hunting, however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Cultural resources of various types were observed within this subunit. Some raptor nesting may occur in the rimrock area which surrounds the plateau.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition as the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. In addition, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-94B

Description

Size: 7,520 acres of public land. There are inholdings of 640 acres of State land and 160 acres of private land.

Location: 15 miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded on the northeast by a BLM road and adjacent public land, and on the south and west by private land, and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of a plateau area which rises approximately 100 feet from Tucke Flat on the northeast and gently slopes to the southwest. Rimrock edges occur along the perimeter of the plateau and around some depressions within the plateau. The general topography of the plateau and Tucke Flat to the north is flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with three miles of vehicle ways being the only imprint of man's work.

Solitude: This subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a visitor to achieve a sense of solitude due to the lack of topographic or vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers some opportunities for hiking and hunting but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the subunit appears to be in a natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable, it does not offer outstanding opportunties for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-98

Unit Name: Strawberry Mountain Parcels

Strawberry Mountain Subunits 2-98A through D are adjacent to the Malhuer National Forest's Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area or the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area Number 6238A which the President recommended in 1979 be added to the wilderness area. The inventory of Subunits 2-98A through D takes into consideration the fact that they are contiguous to existing or proposed wilderness.

Subunit Number: 2-98A

Description

Size: 200 acres.

Location: Four miles southeast of Canyon City.

Boundaries: Private land defines the unit's north, east and west boundary. The lands of Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area 6238A define its southern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is the steep north-facing upslope of a 6,062-foot mountain. The elevation of the area ranges from 5,827 to 4,600 feet. The west fork of Pine Creek cuts through the southwest corner of the area. Stands of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, juniper, and grass vegetate the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Although the subunit is less than 5,000 acres it meets the minimum size criteria because it is contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

Naturalness: Three-quarters of a mile of fenceline and four areas that have had some mining activity (excavated areas) occur in this parcel. However, none of these works of man are substantially noticeable except for a 20 acre area in the southeast corner where the mined area is quite extensive.

Solitude: The rugged mountain topography with its elevation changes and vegetative cover create an outstanding opportunity for the user to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of others when considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area.

Recreation: The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding and backpacking when considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area.

Supplemental Values: The area is part of a winter range for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 180 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 20 acres which lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally free of the imprints of man's work except for a 20-acre area which has been affected by mining. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation when considered as an addition to the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Recommendation.

Subunit Number: 2-98B

Description

Size: 2,400 acres of public land with 60 acres of private land inholdings.

Location: One-eighth of a mile south and east of Canyon City.

Boundaries: Private and public lands define the east and north boundaries; Highway 395, private, and public land define the west boundary; private land and the lands in the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area 6238A define the south boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains the ascending ridgelines of Little Canyon Mountain (5,682 feet). The subunit holds one perennial creek and many intermittent streams which have carved significant drainage courses in the mountainsides. The vegetation in the northeastern portion of the area is a mixture of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, sagebrush, juniper, and grasses, with some densely forested areas. The south and west

portion of the unit is quite rocky with thick areas of mountain mahogany and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria because it is adjacent to an area formally determined to have wilderness values by another agency.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a powerline along the western boundary, timber hauling roads, skid trails, and stump areas in the southeastern corner of the area. In addition, three patented placer claims and numerous unpatented placer claims with substantial areas where surface material has been removed and worked by hydraulic means occur in the east central portion of the subunit. Shafts and scrapings are located in the eastern two-thirds of the area, and there are numerous habitations scattered among these mining claims. The visibility of the scars created by these developments make man's imprint substantially noticeable within the subunit.

Solitude: The steep mountainous topography with its accompanying good vegetative screening of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, juniper and mountain mahogany provides excellent cover within the area and would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The rugged terrain and vegetative screening provide a mental and physical challenge to the sightseer, hiker, horseback rider, backpacker, and hunter using the area. When the subunit is considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area it offers outstanding opportunities to the user.

Supplemental Values: Cultural resources of various types were observed in the unit. Rocky Mountain elk and California bighorn sheep winter in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: When the area is considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area, it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. However, the subunit appears to have been substantially affected by the imprints of man's work making the subunit appear unnatural.

Subunit Number: 2-98C

Description

Size: 720 acres.

Location: Two and one-half miles south of Canyon City.

Boundaries: Private land defines the northern and western boundary; State land defines the southern boundary; and the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area defines the eastern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Rock outcroppings and a pronounced perennial drainage define the steep mountainous topography of this subunit. Stands of ponderosa pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, Douglas-fir, and grasses are found mixed within the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas because it is contiguous to an area formally determined to have wilderness values.

Naturalness: The unit appears to be unaffected by the works of man, leaving it completely natural.

Solitude: When this 720-acre parcel is considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area, the visitor's opportunity to travel without encountering the sights and sounds of others is outstanding. The steep mountain/canyon topography of this area with its good vegetative cover offers excellent screening for the visitor.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and hunting when considered in conjunction with to the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area.

Supplemental Values: Mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and California bighorn sheep winter in the area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 720-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. When the area is considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area it possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 2-98D

Description

Size: 210 acres.

Location: Eight and one-half miles east and south of Canyon City.

Boundaries: The Mark Thompson mine and private land define the north boundary; private land defines the east boundary; a road and public land defines the west boundary, while the lands of the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area 6238A define the south boundary for this area.

Physical Characteristics: The area is bench and foothill country with steep canyons. It ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir grow primarily in the west portion of the subunit; juniper, mountain mahogany, and grasses grow in the rest of the area. The elevation varies from 4,800 to 4,200 feet. Indian Creek, a perennial stream, runs north to south through the middle of the area, creating a steep canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas because it is contiguous with an area formally determined to possess wilderness values.

Naturalness: The subunit contains an old timber sale in the west end of the area (three and one-half acres), and the Mark Thompson chromite mine (two acres) along the northern boundary. The Mark Thompson mine is a substantial man-made scar. The rugged topography, vegetative screening, and dispersion of the developments make the area basically natural.

Solitude: The varied foothills and steep canyon topography of this area with its accompanying good vegetative cover enable a visitor to travel screened from the sights, sounds, and evidence of others. When the subunit is considered in conjunction with the recommended Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area, it offers an outstanding opportunity for the visitor to find solitude.

Recreation: The area offers several forms of primitive and unconfined type of recreation, including hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, hiking, and sightseeing. When the subunit is considered in

conjunction with the recommended Strawberry Mountain Wilderness addition, it offers outstanding possibilities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: This area is part of a winter range for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 208-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate two acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: With the exception of the two acres at the Chromite Mine, a substantially noticeable imprint of man, the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition. In addition, it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation when considered in conjunction with the recommended Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Addition.

Unit Number: 2-103

Unit Name: Aldrich Mountain I

Description

Size: 6,450 acres.

Location: Three miles south of Dayville.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private land; the east boundary is private land and Malheur National Forest land (Aldrich Mountain RARE II Area #6233 - not recommended for wilderness); the south boundary is private land and a road; and the west boundary is private land and a portion of the South Fork of the John Day River Road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is comprised of the steep foothills of Aldrich Mountain. The area contains several ridges divided by the deep drainages of Smokey Creek, Oliver Creek, and many smaller tributaries. However, only small segments of the major drainages are located in the unit. The vegetation includes ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, mostly in the drainages, with juniper, sagebrush, and grass scattered throughout the remainder of the area. Many areas of exposed rock are devoid of vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears to be in a basically natural condition. The area contains three spring developments, a small seeding, and about two miles of vehicle way. None of these developments are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The topographic diversity offered within most of this unit, combined with the vegetation, provides good screening opportunities throughout much of the area. However, the unit has a very irregular shape. Private land cuts deeply into the unit at several points and in one area reduces the unit to a one-half mile by one-quarter mile strip. The poor configuration prevents the unit from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, sightseeing, viewing wildlife, and backpacking. The topographic diversity and adequate cover in most of the unit make these opportunities excellent. However, the poor configuration of the unit would restrict movement within the area and lessen the quality of experience. The recreational opportunities would not be outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: The unit lies within the Murderers Creek Wildlife Management Area. The unit provides winter range for deer and year-round range for bighorn sheep.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit appears to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. The opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation are severely limited by the poor boundary configuration.

Unit Number: 2-110

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek

Description

Size: 5,145 acres of public land with one inholding of 40 acres of private land.

Location: Three miles west of Dayville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by private land; on the east by private land, a road and adjacent public land; on the south by Ochoco National Forest land, and on the west by the Ochoco National Forest, private land, and the Cottonwood Creek road and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature is a ridge line which runs north and south along the east side of the unit, although the entire unit is predominantly foothill country. The unit contains many small drainages which are dry throughout much of the year. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass, although juniper is widely scattered through much of the area and ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir can be found in the drainages at higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Man-made developments include about 300 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, 11 miles of fence, and one reservoir. Approximately 300 acres of the higher elevations have been logged. Overall the unit appears to be substantially free of the imprint of man's work.

Solitude: The topographic and vegetative screening which exist throughout much of this unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Although the timbered drainages offer more opportunities for solitude than the remainder of the unit, these drainages are relatively short, narrow and few in number, and are not outstanding.

Recreation: This unit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer), however, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The unit provides deer winter range and opportunities for viewing off-site scenery.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears to be in a relatively natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-111

Unit Name: Hay Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-111 located 13 miles northwest of Burns, contains 7,610 acres of public land. Intensive inventory has identified several roads which divide the unit into four subunits. All of these areas contain less than 5,000 contiguous acres (from 980 acres to 3,600 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of the subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Unit Number: 2-114

Unit Name: Syrup Canyon

Description

Size: 7,570 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent pulic lands with the exception of a State parcel on the west and the north. During the intensive inventory a mapping error was discovered involving the northern boundary. The adjustment of the boundary resulted in a 300 acre reduction in this unit and a 300 acre addition in Unit 2-71. The acreage cited above reflects this change.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of flat table-land with a few gently rolling hills. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains two miles of fence, two reservoirs, and two and one-half miles of vehicle ways. These developments are substantially unnoticeable leaving the area in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Because of the lack of topographic or vegetative screening, the irregular shape, and the relatively small size, this unit doesnot offer outstanding opportunites for a visitor to obtain a feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hunting; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit lies within a major avian flyway between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit appears to be in a basically natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-115

Unit Name: Alkali Flat

Description

Size: 14,285 acres of public land, with one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 20 miles north of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is surrounded entirely by roads and adjacent BLM lands with the exception of a portion of State land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of an upper plateau region along the south portion of the unit and a valley floor along the north half. Both the plateau and the valley floor are predominantly flat to gently rolling with ridges defining the perimeter of the plateau. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable powerline affects about 30 acres on the east side of the unit. In addition, a rock quarry (five-acre area) in the northeast corner is substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit contains three reservoirs and about four miles of vehicle ways. The reservoirs and the ways are not substantially noticeable and the unit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The gently rolling topography which occurs throughout most of the unit and the short sagebrush vegetation would not provide the visitor with the opportunity to find a secluded spot. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope), but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of 35 acres which are disturbed by the powerline and rock quarry, the unit appears to be in a basically natural condition. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

VALE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 3-6

Unit Name: DeArmond Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 45,510 acres of public land, including 1,760 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. Four inholdings of private property totalling 1,720 acres are located in the unit.

Location: The unit is located immediately north of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north and east by roads and on the south and west by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is diverse, ranging from mountain tops, buttes, and ridges to canyons, foothills, and flats. DeArmond Mountain and Warm Springs Creek Canyon (mainly private property) are major features in the northern part. Beulah Butte and Grasshopper Flat are the most noticeable features in the central part. The south portion is the west-facing open slope of a north-south ridge. The vegetation includes juniper trees, sagebrush, and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The entire unit is affected by developments. Many ways were originally constructed with substantially noticeable cuts visible for long distances. These improved routes do not meet the road definition because they lack relatively regular and continuous use and maintenance. A total of approximately 40 miles of these improved ways criss-cross the unit. The unit also contains 19 reservoirs, several developed springs and approximately 45 miles of fence. The cumulative impact of these intrusions is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: An outstanding opportunity for solitude exists in the unit due to its relatively large size and the vegetative and topographic screening. The unit's shape would tend to confine users in some areas, however.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of the variety of vegetation and terrain, abundant water (springs, reservoirs and creeks), scenery, and plentiful wildlife. Some of the opportunities include camping, hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography and sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural. The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable throughout the unit.

Unit Number: 3-8

Unit Name: Westfall Highlands

Description

Size: 15,600 acres.

Location: The unit is nine miles east of Beulah Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private property on the southeast, northeast, and for a portion of the southwest boundary. A portion of the northeast boundary between two private property lines is bounded by a county road. The remainder is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains steep buttes and hills with flat, rocky mesa tops. Westfall Butte is located in the northwest portion of the unit. The vegetation includes sagebrush and associated aspen and mahogany groves.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Four reservoirs are located near the borders. They are in the bottom of gullies and out of sight from the slopes. A developed spring is hidden in a mahogany grove. A fenceline bisects the unit from east to west. From it, three fences run off the unit in north/south directions. All of these developments are substantially unnoticeable.

A 320-acre seeding is located in the northeast corner; it is surrounded by a fence. The seeding is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is crescent shaped--about nine miles long and averages about two miles wide. The width is not conducive to an opportunity for solitude. In the west end the terrain diversity and vegetative cover provide numerous opportunities for solitude but not enough to consider the entire unit outstanding. The east end offers little vegetative cover and terrain diversity.

Recreation: There are opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, snowshoeing, photography, sightseeing and hunting. Deer hunting is especially popular. However, these opportunities are not outstanding because of a lack of especially unique or interesting features.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers considerable zoological study opportunities, geologic and botanical interest, scenic vistas, and some cultural and historic sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable except for the seeded area at the east end. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunties for solitude or a primitive and uncomfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-12

Unit Name: Hog Creek

Description

Size: 20,480 acres.

Location: Three miles north of Jonesboro.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south by public property and on other sides by BLM roads. Two deadend roads approximately four miles long enter the unit in the southeast corner.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists primarily of the Hog Creek drainage. A steep ridge to the east breaks into rimrock. To the west are several less dramatic tributary drainages and slopes rising from Hog Creek. These are crested by a ridge along the west boundary. The sparse vegetation is largely grasses and small sage; lichens grow on the rocky soil surface. Currants, chokecherry and mock orange grow in draws with springs, and many willow grow along Hog Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are five reservoirs in the unit. Four are in the northwest corner; the other is in the southeast leg of the unit. They are all hidden down in gullies or on a ridge and remain out of sight. A fence-line runs along the east boundary and across the southeast portion. About twenty miles of ways crisscross the unit. All the developments are substantially unnoticeable. The area is apparently natural.

Solitude: The size of the unit offers many acres within which to roam to achieve solitude, but the shape, topography, and vegetation do not enhance this opportunity. The unit is an oval-shaped bowl with little vegetation. The unit consists of open, inward facing slopes that are exposed to each other and especially visible from the west boundary. The opportunity for solitude is limited to a few hidden portions of the canyon bottom and several deep gullies. The opportunity is not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity to hike, hunt, photograph and sightsee. These opportunities are not outstanding. Game populations are not large and attractive sites are sparse.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-16

Unit Name: Lower Bully Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: In the initial inventory decision announced in August 1979, it was stated that Unit 3-16 contained 19,260 acres. The boundary road in the northwest corner is actually one-quarter mile east of the location shown on the August 1979 maps, reducing the unit area by 200 acres. A road identified in the west side of the unit during the intensive inventory divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A is 18,900 acres and Subunit B is 160 acres. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and is not discussed in the following narrative.

Subunit Number: 3-16A

Description

Size: Subunit 3-16A contains 18,900 acres, including 640 acres of State land presently in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located ten miles west of Vale.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded primarily by private land. The north and east sides are bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit 3-16A consists of a high plateau and rolling hills. The most pronounced topographic relief is in the northern region. The drainages are shallow and drain mainly to the south-southeast. Shallow outcrops of rimrock exist on some of the drainages. Vegetation consists of low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately 23 miles of ways, nine and one-half miles of fence, two stock water reservoirs, one geothermal well, one concrete irrigation reservoir and two miles of highline canal. The intrusions are substantially noticeable because they are close together and in many cases more than one can be seen from a given point. They tend to dominate the landscape.

Solitude: Subunit 3-16A is shaped like the letter "L" with each arm being one mile wide. The greatest topographic relief is in the north. A limited opportunity for solitude exists in the northern drainages. However, the drainages are narrow, shallow, and short and do not allow users to move about without coming in contact with each other. In the remainder of the subunit, the relief is gentle and offers little concealment. There is virtually no vegetative screening. Due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and the narrow configuration, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Chukar and ground squirrel hunting are outstanding because of the high animal populations in the subunit. Rock collecting, camping, horseback riding and low quality fishing are other recreation opportunities. However, these opportunities are limited because of the lack of challenging terrain, natural settings, and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit does not qualify as a wilderness study area because of the many intrusions and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude. The subunit does offer outstanding oportunities for primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-18

Unit Name: Castle Rock

Description

Size The unit contains 7,160 acres of public land, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is four miles north of Beulah Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north, east, and west by a BLM roads, and to the south by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains 6,837-foot Castle Rock and two drainages that flow off its west side. The area west of Castle Rock is known as Horse Flat. Spring Creek flows through it. The lowest point in the unit is approximately 3,900 feet. The east third of the unit contains steep slopes and rock outcrops. The vegetation is juniper, mountain mahogany, native grasses, and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the mimimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximatley seven miles of fence in the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because rolling hills and trees block them from view. Three reservoirs are located at the western base of Castle Rock. They are substantially unnoticeable because of the terrain. They are located in a draw between Horse Flat and the ridge, down below the ground level line-of-sight across half of the unit. A spring development

lies in a deep draw along the south boundary. Because of its small size and the topographic and vegetative screening, it is substantially unnoticeable. About four miles of ways loop in and out of the unit from three sides. They are substantially unnoticeable because they have grown over and are screened by topography and trees. There are 50 acres of substantially noticeable hunter campsites along the center of the eastern boundary. They are noticeable because of the large number of ways, the corrals, beaten vegetation, and proximity to the boundary.

Solitude: The east side of the ridge offers substantial vegetative cover. This area is two miles long and one-half mile wide; it slopes 30 degrees or more. The remainder of the unit offers vegetative cover only in draws and ravines. The topographic screening is limited to the ridge and several parallel draws along the south end. The ridge is the only major relief in the unit. The ravines at the south end are less than a mile long. The unit is two miles wide and three miles long. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its small area and the topography and vegetation would not screen users from others.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sight-seeing. The unit can be crossed in two hours through its width and four hours over its length. There are few secluded sites. The unit is too small for extensive touring. The only attractive, unique feature is Castle Rock. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers significant off-site scenic vistas, opportunities for geological, botanical, and zoological viewing and study. Castle Rock is the highest point in the north half of the Vale District. It is the cone of an extinct volcano. The peak is mentioned in early writings about Indians in the area and contains archeological sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-19

Unit Name: North Fork Malheur River

Description

Size: The unit contains 3,160 acres of public land. This unit is adjacent to the Forest Service's RARE II Area #6241, which was designated for non-wilderness but for primitive, nonroaded use.

Location: The unit is 20 miles northwest of Juntura.

Boundaries: Most of the unit is bounded by private land. Part of the north boundary is contiguous to the Malheur National Forest. Short sections of the boundary are county and other roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the North Fork Malheur River and its canyon. Parts of the canyon are 900 feet deep. Western larch, mountain mahogany, lodgepole pine, willow, juniper, aspen, currants, mock orange, dogwood, sagebrush, and chokecherry grow in the canyon. The highest point in the unit is around 4,680 feet; the lowest is approximately 3,600 feet.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. The unit was intensively inventoried to determine whether it is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in a unimpaired condition. The unit boundaries do not follow any topographical features, making them difficult to identify. It would be practically impossible to hike in this unit without leaving public land and entering private property. The river canyon leaves and then re-enters the unit three times. Only three miles of the river are actually in the unit. Portions of the unit are only one-fourth mile wide and traverse the steep canyonside, not even reaching the river. This makes travel through the unit extremely difficult. The unit is not of sufficient size to make practicable it preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Naturalness: Five miles of fence across the unit are substantially unnoticeable because of their short length and size and the vegetative and topographic screening. One way crosses the southern neck of the unit and another extends to some springs above the rim along the east side. Both are substantially unnoticable due to their short length (less than one mile each) and topographic and vegetative screening. The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: This unit is shaped like an inverted "J". It is about six miles long and averages one-half mile in width. The unit forms a narrow corridor, sometimes along the canyonside, and across the tables above the rim in others. The topography and shape of the unit serve to channel visitors into a narrow neck. Opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others are not outstanding. Although the canyon contains considerable vegetation, it is not sufficient to provide solitude in such a small area. The more heavily timbered portions of the canyon are in the National Forest.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities to hike, fish, hunt, photograph, and sightsee. The opportunities are outstanding. Due to its small size, opportunities for extened hikes are limited but day-hiking opportunities are excellent. There are many attractions and vistas, and considerable challenge. Fishing is excellent. There is an opportunity for hunting big game.

Supplemental Values: This unit is a transition zone between a ponderosa pine forest and the high desert. It contains riparian habitat and geological and scenic features.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and does not offer outstanding oportunities for solitude. It appears to be generally natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, and offers an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-20

Unit Name: Mustang Basin

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-20 contains 13,120 acres. It is divided by a road and non-public lands into two subunits. One of the subunits contains 3,500 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-20A

Description

Size: The unit contains 9,620 acres.

Location: The unit is located three miles northwest of Jonesboro.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the northeast, south, north, and west by roads and on the southeast by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has two north/south ridgelines with a two-mile wide valley between them and several buttes in the northern portion of the unit. One major and several short deeply incised rugged canyons are in the southern portion of the unit. The vegetation consists primarily of grasses, sagebrush, mountain mahogany and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Five substantially unnoticeable reservoirs are located in the unit along the east boundary. Four are hidden by the terrain. Angel Wells Reservoir is in an open area, but is shallow and overgrown enough to remain substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit has diverse terrain and vegetative screening, but it is long and narrow. Over half of the unit is one mile wide. The remainder is two and one-half miles wide. The unit is crescent-shaped and follows the top of a ridge in the north and an outward-facing slope in the south. The ridge is fairly open. The southern slope is dissected by canyons and gulches. The configuration and canyons do not provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude. There are four parallel canyons of one to three miles in length. Although there are opportunities for solitude, they are limited and not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing. None of these are outstanding because of an absence of unique or special attractions and challenging features and the unit's relatively small size and narrow configuration.

Supplemental Values: The riparian habitats, juniper, and mountain mahogany groves are of botanical interest. The diverse terrain and exposed rock in the canyons and rims are scenic and may provide geologic information.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-22

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek

Description

Size: Unit 3-22 contains 11,560 acres, of which 320 acres are state land in the process of being acquired. One 160-acre parcel in the northwest corner is privately owned.

Location: The unit is located 14 miles northwest of Vale.

Boundaries: Private land adjoins the unit on the north boundary and southeast and southwest corners. The remainder of the unit boundary is BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Unit 3-22 is two miles wide and eight and one-half miles long at its greatest dimensions. The topography consists of small valley bottoms and rolling hills. The Cottonwood Creek drainage is the main topographic feature. Shallow rimrock ocurs in the south. Vegetation consists of small pockets of wheatgrass seeding, low sagebrush, bitterbrush and native rangeland grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Unit 3-22 meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains ten miles of fence, two developed springs, one stock water reservoir, one wildlife exclosure, 17 miles of ways and 500 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. Furrows are evident in the seeding. Individually, the instrusions do not appear obtrusive. However, they are close together and several of them can be seen within a short distance. Collectively, they dominate the landscape and are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The Cottonwood Creek drainage offers a limited opportunity for solitude. However, the drainage does not provide sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to allow users to move about without coming into contact with each other. The rolling hills in the rest of the unit offer little concealment. Scattered aspen trees around springs provide limited vegetative screening. Ninety eight percent of the unit contains low sagebrush, native grass and crested wheatgrass, which offer virtually no concealment. Due to the limited amount of vegetative and topographic screening, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Deer and chukar are hunted in the unit. Horseback riding, backpacking, and primitive camping are other recreation opportunities. However, none of these opportunities are outstanding due to the lack of interesting or challenging terrain, limited natural settings, and absence of unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not have wilderness characteristics because of the many intrusions, the limited solitude opportunities, and the lack of outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Unit Number: 3-24

Unit Name: Buckbrush Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-24 contains 7,800 acres. During the intensive inventory, a road was identified near the south boundary which divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A contains 6,540 acres and Subunit B contains 1,260 acres. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-24 A

Description

Size: Subunit 3-24A contains 6,540 acres, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located 21 miles northwest of Vale.

Boundaries: Subunit 3-24A is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit's terrain consists of high plateaus and rolling hills; the most noticeable topographic relief is in the northern region. The drainages are shallow and drain to the south. The drainages contain some shallow rimrock outcrops. The vegetation consists of native grass, 1,400 acres of crested wheatgrass, low sagebrush, and less than twenty juniper trees. The subunit is nine miles long and two miles wide at its widest point.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 17 miles of ways, ten miles of fence, one wildlife exclosure, four stock water reservoirs, two developed springs, one 1,400-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, four mining claims and three building-stone surface collecting sites in the subunit. Because of the large number and closeness of the intrusions,they tend to dominate the landscape. The works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: A limited opportunity for solitude exists in the northern drainages. However, the drainages are narrow and shallow and do not allow users to move about without coming into contact with each other. In the remainder of the subunit, the relief is gentle and offers little concealment. There is virtually no vegetative screening anywhere in the unit. Due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and narrow configuration, the subunit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The are many ground squirrels and chukars in the unit and hunting opportunities are outstanding. Hiking, camping, and horseback riding are limited because the area offers little challenging terrain, few natural settings, and no unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not qualify as a wilderness study area because of the many intrusions within the subunit and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Unit Number: 3-27

Unit Name: Steamboat Rock

Description

Size: 18,980 acres.

Location: Five miles northeast of Castle Rock.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a county road on the southeast and by a combination of private property and BLM roads on the remainder. A dead-end road extends into the unit to Kitten Canyon Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is mountainous with numerous drainages (McArthur, Godding, Beaver Dam, STeamboat, Kitten and South Bully Creek Canyons). Sagebrush and mountain mahogany grow on the slopes and ridges; pockets of aspen and riparian vegetation grow in the canyons.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Over 15 miles of fence, seven miles of ways, one reservoir and one developed spring are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic screening provided by the diverse relief. The unit generally appears to be natural.

Solitude: The diverse topography and the scattered patches of vegetation would screen users from each other and provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities to hike, camp and hunt deer. Good campsites are available along streams and beaver ponds and in stands of aspen trees. The canyons provide interesting places to hike, and deer are relatively plentiful in the area. The area receives heavy deer hunting pressure.

Supplemental Value: Supplemental values include wildlife such as beaver, sagegrouse and deer. The aspen groves and riparian vegetation provide botanical and scenic values.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 18,980-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-30

Unit Name: Slaughter Gulch

Description

Size: The unit contains 15,400 acres of public land. There is one 80-acre parcel of private property in the unit.

Location: The unit is located one mile south of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north and east by roads, on the west by private property and a railroad, and on the south by a line established during an inventory conducted in 1977 and 1978. It was determined at that time that land to the south does not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Characteristics: The southeast portion of the unit consists of flat to slightly rolling plateaus. Several small drainages (Bull, Basque, and Mosquito Canyons) run to the west into the Malheur River. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Over 12 miles of ways crisscross the unit. Thirteen reservoirs and six miles of fence are scattered throughout the area. Several of the reservoirs are substantially noticeable because of their location in relatively flat terrain. A substantially noticeable railroad parallels the western boundary. The cumulative impact of the numerous reservoirs, the railroad, and the many miles of ways causes the unit to not appear to be generally natural.

Solitude: The short vegetation provides little or no vegetative screening. The relatively flat relief over one-third to one-half of the unit provides little topographic screening. The unit is seven miles long by two to three miles wide. The only opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of other people in the unit would be in the drainages and side canyons in the western and northern portions of the unit.

Recreation: Primitive recreation activities available within the unit would include deer and chukar hunting, hiking, camping, photography, sightseeing, and limited fishing along four miles of the Malheur River. None of these activities are outstanding due to the lack of diversity in vegetation and topography, the relatively small size of the area, and the limited segment of the river included in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Unit Number: 3-31

Unit Name: Camp Creek

Description

Size: 15,520 acres.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the east by a road in Cottonwood Canyon. The remainder of the boundary was established during a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977 and 1978. It is a combination of private property lands and topographic features. The land to the south, west, and north was determined during the 1977-78 inventory to not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Description: Several major side-canyons enter Cottonwood Creek Canyon from the north and west. Some of the named ones include Wildcat, Green, Long, and Camp Creek Canyons. All of them are extremely rugged and steep. The vegetation in the canyons is sagebrush, bunchgrass, cheatgrass, riparian and a few juniper trees. Above the canyon rims in the northwest part of the unit are sagebrush flats.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are four reservoirs, approximately nine miles of ways, and two miles of fence in the unit. All of these developments are substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The size, shape and the low vegetative screening do not significantly contribute to an opportunity for solitude. However, the diverse and extremely broken relief provides excellent topographic screening, resulting in an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The numerous springs, the perennial flow in portions of Cottonwood Creek, and the many canyons with their riparian vegetation provide outstanding recreational opportunties for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography.

Supplemental Values: Cottonwood Creek contains a small population of native trout. The deep, narrow, rugged canyons and rock outcrops present unique geologic formations and scenic attractions.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 15,520-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-32

Unit Name: Coleman Spring

Description

Size: 7,040 acres.

Location: The unit is located 15 miles southeast of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by a road in Cottonwood Canyon. The remainder of the boundary was established during a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78. It is a combination of private property lines and topographic features. The land to the south and east was determined during the 1977-78 inventory to not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is on the east slope of Cottonwood Creek Canyon. The slopes are very steep and the canyon extremely deep. It is over 1,200 feet from the canyon floor to the top of the rim. West Fork and Little Cottonwood Creek Canyons are two rugged tributaries in the southern half of the unit. Each is approximately three miles long. Numerous rock outcrops and rims are found throughout the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush, native bunchgrass, riparian plants, and a few scattered junipers.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three reservoirs, approximately four miles of ways, and five miles of fence in the unit. All of these developments are substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The lack of vegetative screening, the relatively small size, and narrow shape (one to three miles wide by six miles long) do not significantly contribute to an opportunity for solitude. However, the rugged canyons and diverse, broken relief provide significant topographic screening, resulting in an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The numerous springs, the perennial flow in portions of Cottonwood Creek, and the canyons with their riparian vegetation provide outstanding recreational opportunties for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography.

Supplemental Values: Cotton Creek sustains a small population of native trout. The deep, narrow, rugged canyons and rock outcrops present unique geologic formations and scenic attractions.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 7,040-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-33

Unit Name: Gold Creek

Revision of Unit Boundary: Inventory Unit 3-33 contains 14,400 acres. A road identified during the intensive inventory crosses the southern part of the unit and forms a subunit of 900 acres. This subunit does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-33A

Description

Size: 13,500 acres.

Location: The unit is located ten miles east of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads on all sides except where private property forms the northern boundary and a line on the northeast boundary established during a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78. Land to the northeast of the boundary was determined in that inventory to not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Characteristics: Two major drainages, Gold Creek and the North Fork of Squaw Creek, and their tributaries dissect the unit into numerous rugged ridges and canyons. Several springs are located in the steep and rocky walls forming the deep canyons. Perennial water flows below the springs through short segments of the canyons. The southwest corner of the unit is a flat plateau. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush, scattered junipers and native grasses, with pockets of riparian vegetation in the canyons and near the springs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 11 reservoirs in the unit. Two reservoirs along the south boundary (Gage and Roy), one reservoir along the western boundary (Gold Creek #1) and two reservoirs at the head of Simmons Gulch are substantially noticeable. All are immediately adjacent to the boundary roads. The other six reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic screening. Three miles of fence and approximately seven miles of ways are also substantially unnoticeable. Except for the five reservoirs at the edge of the unit, the unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. To some extent, this is due to the unit's size, shape, and vegetative screening. However, the major contributor is the diversity of relief. The numerous canyons and side ravines provide many secluded locations.

Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, hunting, camping, sightseeing, photography and nature study. The combination of these activities in the rugged and scenic setting of Gold and North Squaw Creeks represents an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity.

Supplemental Values: The major supplemental value is the scenic resource of the rugged canyons. The riparian and fishery habitat may be unique.

Proposed Decision: Designate 13,500 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate five reservoirs situated immediately on the unit boundaries.

Rationale: The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of the five reservoirs situated on the boundary roads. They are highly visible and substantially noticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-34

Unit Name: Squaw Creek

Note: Unit 3-34 was incorrectly listed in the report on the final decision on the initial inventory as being eliminated from further wilderness review. It was correctly shown on the final decision map as being scheduled for intensive inventory.

Description

Size: The unit contains 3,040 acres of public land.

Location: Five miles southwest of Harper, Oregon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is bisected from west to east by the North and South Forks of Squaw Creek. A ridgeline that reaches 4,481 feet in elevation extends through the unit from the north to south. The lowest point in the unit is 3,100 feet. A small draw is located in the unit's center between the two creeks. The vegetation is native bunchgrasses and shrubs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit does not meet any of the size criteria.

Naturalnes: A fenceline parallels the south boundary. Due to the proximity to the boundary, the prominence of the fence on a ridgeline, and the grazing pasture contrast, it is substantially noticeable. Two ways follow the creekbeds of the North and South Forks, occasionally going up onto the banks or the ridgetop. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are short, are broken up by the creekbed and the hilly terrain, and are largely overgrown.

Solitude: The unit is one mile wide and three miles long. The only notable topography is the central ridge and its slopes to the east and west. There is no vegetative screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its small size and the lack of secluded sites.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and photography. They are not outstanding because of the small size of the unit (it can be crossed east to west in one hour and north to south in two hours), the lack of unusual or unique features, the lack of secluded or attractive sites, and the limited number of opportunities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable except for the fenceline. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-35

Unit Name: Saddle Horse Spring

Description

Size: The unit contains 5,340 acres of public land. The acreage was incorrectly reported as 4,760 acres in the initial inventory report.

Location: The unit is located immediately southeast of Jonesboro.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a BLM road and private property to the west, private property to the north and roads to the east and south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains broken, rough terrain. The three major drainages are Sperry, Indian and South Trail Creeks. Some rimrocked tables extend into the unit from the south end. Indian Creek flows through the unit's center and the Malheur River. The Malheur lies just north of the unit. In most places the drainages are at least 280 feet deep. They are 600 feet deep at the south end below Antelope Swale. The vegetation is bunch grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: About three miles of fences have been built in the unit. Th3y are substantially unnoticeable because of the terrain and their location. One is on a ridgeline and away from the unit boundary; the other is located in the north end.

The unit contains about four miles of ways. One follows the western ridge fence for two miles and the other makes a loop around in the northeast corner. Both are overgrown and screened by the terrain; they are substantially unnoticeable.

A reservoir is located along the south border, above the rim in flat country. The dam, the spillway, and access ways are all apparent, and their cumulative effect is substantially noticeable.

A corral is located along the southwest boundary. The corral is on a narrow shoulder of the adjacent table. The shoulder is so narrow that the boundary road passes through the corral itself; the corral is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit's average dimensions are about two miles by three miles. There is virtually no vegetative screening, but there is abundant topographic screening. The unit contains dozens of short, deep drainages. Twists and bends in their courses provide many secluded sites. The opportunity for solitude is outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, and sight seeing. The unit can be crossed in two hours north to south and three hours east to west. This does not constitute an outstanding hiking opportunity. There are numerous secluded sites, abundant game, and interesting landforms but no unique or unusual sites or features. Due to the unit's small size, limited variety of landforms, and marginal suitability for a limited number of activities, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 5,330-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 10 acres because they lack wilderness characterics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics are the corral and reservoir along the south boundary.

Unit Number: 3-41

Unit Name: Keeney Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-41 contains 16,280 acres of public land. It is divided by a road identified during the intensive inventory into two subunits. Subunit B contains 1,540 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-41A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 14,740 acres of public land. The unit contains 80 acres of private inholdings in 2 parcels near the center of the unit.

Location: The unit is located 19 miles south of Harper.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by state and private land and a BLM road. The north and south boundaries are roads. The east boundary is a BLM road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is comprised of of rocky, rolling ridges around the deep canyon of Dry Creek Gorge. The gorge crosses the unit from west to east. North of the gorge along the west boundary is a high, open-sloped ridge that dominates the unit. Along the east boundary are lower lying hills and draws with scattered rimrock. South of the gorge are several more low, parallel ridges that lie north to south. The unit is covered with cheatgrass, sagebrush, bunchgrass and some willows.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a substantially noticeable, bladed fenceline across the north arm of the unit. It climbs the high ridge north of the gorge and is readily visible from the boundary and nearby slopes.

Another fenceline follows Dry Creek from the west boundary to the center of the unit. From there it leaves the creek and parallels the boundary of Subunit B. Because it winds in and out of the canyon and then along the south boundary, it remains substantially unnoticeable.

There are three reservoirs and two springs in the unit. One spring is behind the high ridge in a draw. The other is in the south central portion of the unit, tucked into a draw. Both are hidden from view. One of the reservoirs is along the eastern boundary, obscured from sight by several small rises immediately adjacent to it. Another reservoir is along the southern boundary, down in a small sink below the level of the surrounding terrain. The third reservoir is near the west boundary at the head of a tributary canyon where the terrain falls off steeply to the canyon bottom. Due to terrain, all the water developments are blocked from observation and are substantially unnoticeable.

From the east boundary two ways penetrate into the unit, one to a private inholding in the gorge and another across a ridge top to an overlook. From the private property on the east boundary a way follows up Dry Creek, turns, and continues out to the south boundary. From the south boundary another way penetrates to the private property in the gorge. These ways are substantially unnoticeable because of the rolling hills, ridges, and the height of the concealing sagebrush, screening them from view.

Solitude: There is a two-mile long, one-mile wide arm of public land in the northern portion of the unit bounded on two sides by BLM roads with state land on the third side. This 1,960-acre arm along the open-sloped ridge that dominates the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the inability of users to avoid the presence of other users. Despite having virtually no vegetative screening, the remainder of the unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its oval shape, fair size, and topographic screening provided by the rolling hills and the deep canyon.

Recreation: There are opportunties for photography, hunting, backpacking, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding. These opportunities are outstanding in the canyon gorge and southeast portion of the unit due to the terrain's diversity, screening, ruggedness, and interesting features. Numerous draws and twisting drainages provide a variety of experiences and opportunities.

Supplemental Values: There are considerable scenic, geological, and botanical values within the gorge. There also are archeological sites in the canyon.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,780 acre-wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,960 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area lacking wilderness characteristics is the 1,960-acres narrow arm projecting out of the northern corner, which does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Unit Number: 3-44

Unit Name: Star Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 14,360 acres. The southeast boundary was not drawn in the correct location on the initial inventory map. Correcting the map added 40 acres to the acreage reported in the initial inventory. There are three 40 acre private inholdings in the unit.

Location: The unit is located five miles northwest of Crowley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by county and BLM roads and private land. A dead-end road extends from the west boundary to Star Mountain.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains the 6,037 foot summit of Star Mountain and the southeast and southwest ridgelines that fall away from it. The elevation change from the south boundary to the mountaintop is about 1,700 feet. Eleven hilltops and four major drainages are located on the ridges. Crowley and Little Crowley Creeks pass through this unit.

Juniper grows on the slopes of the mountain and willow and aspen grow in the draws. Sagebrush and bunchgrass grow on the hillsides.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two developed springs are located along the dead-end road. There are twelve miles of fence in the unit. A short overgrown way extends to Star Mountain from the north boundary. All of the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because they do not contrast with their surroundings, they are screened by topography and vegetation, they are small, and they are located some distance from one another.

Solitude: The unit is six by six miles in size. It offers a certain amount of vegetative screening in the center and in the drainage bottoms. Several 200 to 300 feet deep drainages and a deep canyon provide topographic screening. The drainages bend and turn and are not exposed to surrounding slopes of other drainages. The ridges contain many hilltops and saddles. The combined effect of these features provides the visitor with an outstanding opportunity to achieve solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, nordic skiing, photography, and sightseeing. The diversity of the terrain, the elevation, the open slopes, the secluded, pristine sites, the wildlife, the diverse vegetation, and the geologic features combine to offer an outstanding opportunity to pursue primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers geological and ecological features that are of scientific, educational and scenic value.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,360-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-47

Unit Name: Cedar Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 43,380 acres of public land and 80 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately five miles east of Turnball Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded primarily by roads. Some private property is located along the northeast and south boundaries. Five dead-end roads penetrate the unit for approximately ten miles to various reservoirs.

Physical Characteristics: Cedar Mountain, elevation 5,564 feet, is located in the center of the unit. The mountain is extremely rocky and covered with dense patches of juniper trees. It slopes in all directions with gently rounded ridges and shallow ravines. The foothills are covered with sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 19 reservoirs, 30 miles of fence and approximately ten miles of ways. Several of the ways have revegetated to the point that they appear to be little more than cow trails. The fences are not bladed and tend to blend into the natural landscape. Most of the reservoirs are small and screened by topography due to their location in natural depressions and drainages. SE Reservoir, Jackson Creek Reservoir, and two unnamed reservoirs are located immediately adjacent to the boundary. They would be substantially noticeable to a person entering the area.

Solitude: The relatively large size, the distance from the perimeter to the core (a minimum of three miles), and the topographic and vegetative screening contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding hiking, camping, hunting, photography, bird-watching and sightseeing opportunities. The mountain and its juniper forest are an attractive and interesting contrast to the surrounding sagebrush and desert shrub lowlands. This adds to the attractiveness of the primitive recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 43,380-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the four reservoirs adjacent to the boundary. The total area eliminated is less than ten acres.

Rationale: The area generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticable, with the exception of the four reserviors along the perimeter. The area also offers outstanding opportunites for solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-50

Unit Name: Freezeout Ridge

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,140 acres of public land. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the center of the unit.

Location: Eight miles south of Harper.

Boundaries: Roads form the north, east, and west boundaries. The south boundary is formed by the edge of land determined to not have wilderness characteristics in a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is largely west-facing slopes of Freezeout Mountain and Hoodoo Ridge. The southern third includes the east-facing slope of Freezeout Mountain. Freezeout Mountain is 5,479 feet in elevation. There is an elevation change of approximately 2,000 feet across the unit. The vegetation consists of the typical high desert scrub and native rangeland grass community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Seven reservoirs and three developed springs are spread evenly across the south two-thirds of the unit. Only two reservoirs are substantially noticeable. They are along the unit's west boundary, at the foot of the ridge. They are noticeable because of their location. The remainder are substantially unnoticeable because they are tucked into draws, out of view from the boundary and hidden from large portions of the unit.

About seven miles of fence stretch across the top of Freezeout Mountain. The ridge is two-thirds of a mile or less across. Since this is the only obvious travel corridor through the south half of the unit, the fence becomes substantially noticeable because of continous contact with it. It is unavoidable unless the visitor either travels along the boundary or walks along the sidehills. Another east-west fence cuts across the upper third of the unit. A small substantially unnoticeable wildlife exclosure is located in the upper third of the unit. It is hidden due to its location in a drainage.

North of the east/west fence the unit was sprayed during the 1965 Callahan brush control project. The area south of the fence, to the west of Freezeout Ridge, was sprayed in the 1969 Hunter brush control project. The Calahan project is no longer substantially noticeable because native vegetation has returned. The Hunter project is still substantially noticeable due to the vegetation contrast which reveals the linear passes taken by the aerial application. Approximately 1,300 acres of the project are included in the unit.

A way parallels the fence on top of Freezeout Mountain for three miles. Two ways penetrate the unit from the south and east and two more parallel the east boundary. All are substantially unnoticeable due to the lack of use and te topographic screening.

Solitude: This unit is 12 miles long. It is one and one-half miles wide in the northern third and three miles wide in the south. The shape is similar to that of a thermometer. The terrain consists of a ridge that slopes off to the west and east boundaries in the south half and an open, western-oriented slope in the north. There are two drainages, both two miles long, in the south end of the unit. They are straight, steep, and narrow. There is virtually no vegetative screening in the unit.

Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding because ofthe lack of secluded sites, the small, narrow size and shape, the openness of the steep slopes that have no screening across their length or from the boundary.

Recreation: This unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding and photography. These are not outstanding because of the limitations imposed by the terrain. Any hiking or touring becomes either a two-hour walk up one side of the unit and down the other or a six-hour trek along the fence on Freezeout Mountain and a six-mile sidehill hike across a 27 percent slope on Hoodoo Ridge. There are no unique, unusual features or attractive sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Except for the 1,300-acre brush control, the ridgetop fenceline, and two reservoirs, the unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-51

Unit Name: Broken Rim

Description

Size: The unit contains 10,800 acres of public land. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the southwest corner.

Location: The unit is located seven miles southeast of Harper.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north by land determined in a 1977-78 wilderness inventory to lack wilderness characteristics. The west and south boundaries are BLM roads. The east boundary is a BLM road and State land.

Physical Characteristics: The north end of the unit contains rough, sharply eroded slopes. There is one central ridgeline. The ridge rises 1,000 feet in about one and one-half miles. The center area of the unit is comprised of rolling uplands surrounding a relatively flat area. The central ridge widens in this area, and the west boundary crosses it. The east boundary is at the bottom of the ridge, in an area known as Sand Hollow. The south end of the unit forms part of the northern slopes of a large basin. The vegetation is of sagebrush and desert grasses.

Wilderness Criteria.

Size: The unit meets the size criteria.

Naturalness: There are eleven reservoirs in this unit. Eight are in the draws on either side of the central ridge. One is a fairly large reservoir along the southern boundary. Because of its size, proximity to the boundary, and situation at the bottom of a basin which focuses visual attention towards it, it is substantially noticeable. The remainder of these ridgeline reservoirs are small, effectively hidden, and isolated enough to be considered substantially unnoticeable.

There are three other reservoirs along the unit's west, northwest and northeast boundaries. These are substantially noticeable because of their proximity to the boundaries and their locations at the base of the open slopes. Two are surrounded on three sides by roads and have fence lines nearby. All have numerous ways adjacent to them.

There are ten miles of fences throughout the area. Two divide the unit in half, one crosses the northern end of the unit, and another runs its length. The north/south fence is substantially noticeable because it follows the crest of the ridge. The ridgeline would be the most popular travel corridor through the area. Visitors to the ridge would see the fence the entire time they were on the ridgetop. The other fences are substantially unnoticeable because of their short lengths and the varying types of topography through which they pass.

Six miles of ways extend into the unit from the north and south ends. These are substantially unnoticeable because they follow creekbeds and draws and are hidden by the terrain.

Solitude: The unit's shape is essentially two rectangles, one above the other, with a connecting narrow neck along the west side. The neck is three miles long and less than one mile wide. The southern block is three by two miles. The northern is four by three miles. Topography in the south consists of open, amphitheater-like slopes of a basin. The narrow neck extends along the flat, open top of Hoodoo ridge. The northern block consists of the east and west slopes of the central ridge. They are open and exposed. There is virtually no vegetative screening in the unit.

The open slopes, the single ridgeline and the limited number of short sidehill ravines and drainages provide few secluded sites. The unit's narrow width would confine users. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, and some limited hunting. None of these opportunities is outstanding. The unit is too small for extensive hiking or riding. There are no unique sights or attractions. The unit can be crossed in two hours on foot from west to east or four hours from south to north.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Except for the mentioned reservoirs and fence line, the unit appears to be generally natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-52

Unit Name: Rock Canyon

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-52 contained 8,460 acres of public land at the conclusion of the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory a road was identified in the southwest corner. It divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-52B is 780 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-52A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 7,680 acres of public land, including 1,280 of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is 14 miles southwest of Vale.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the north by land determined to lack wilderness characteristics in a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78. There is private land in the northwest and southeast corners. The remainder is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit includes low hills in the eastern part of Sand Hollow and the west rim of Negro Rock Canyon; the Hoodoo Creek drainage winds through the center. The sandy soils have resulted in diffuse and meandering creekbeds. There are three drainages in the subunit. One has noticeable rimrock. The vegetation is sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one developed spring. It is substantially unnoticeable due to its small size and location in a steep drainage. Another spring has been enclosed by a fence to prevent livestock trampling. It is along the western border. It is substantially unnoticeable because it is at the base of some low hills in a flat area and is not directly adjacent to the unit boundary.

A north-south fenceline bisects the unit. The terrain screens it; it is substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 11 miles of ways penetrate the area. They are overgrown with grass and brush and are screened by the topography. They are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit is approximately eight miles long and two to three miles wide. There is no vegetative screening. The topography would provide limited screening for visitors. The hills are low and most slopes are gentle and open. The drainages are wide basins. There are few secluded sites. Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. The subunit is too small for extensive touring. It can be crossed east to west in two hours and north to south in five hours. There are no unusual or outstanding features. Opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-53

Unit Name: Dry Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-53 was 31,000 acres at the conclusion of the initial inventory. A portion of the southeast boundary was found not to be a road and the unit was adjusted to the next parallel route. An additional 220 acres was included in the unit. A portion of the southwest boundary also was found not to be a road. The boundary was adjusted to include an additional 1,160 acres.

Description

Size: The unit consists of 32,380 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 80 acres.

Location: 21 miles south of Harper, Oregon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads. Three small portions of the west and north boundaries formed by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The area consists of rugged hills with incised drainages in the north. Dry Creek flows from the west boundary to the east boundary through the northern portions. There are gently rolling hills with dissected shoulders in the south. There are also chalky ridges and rocky canyons. The vegetation is high desert shrubs and native rangeland grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has three substantially unnoticeable reservoirs. All of them are tucked into ravines and draws. There is one developed spring along the west boundary that is substantially noticeable because it is alongside the boundary road.

A bladed fenceline bisects the unit from north to south. It is on a high ridge and only visible when one is directly upon it. However, south of Cherry Spring it is paralled by a now-impassable roadbed that contains many improvement scars up and down slopes and across Wall Rock Ridge. In combination with the fence, they are substantially noticeable because of their location on the slopes and the lack of vegetative cover. The way leaves the fence at Cherry Spring and turns east to Sand Hollow, where it turns south and exits the unit along the southern boundary near Eddy's Place. It has been improved along its entire length and is substantially noticeable as it comes off the ridge on a shoulder and cuts along the side of sand hollow. The remainder of the fenceline north of Cherry Spring is substantally unnoticeable because of the terrain diversity and screening and the regeneration of the blade scar. Another way heads to the northeast from Cherry Spring, but it is substantially unnoticeable because it drops off at the ridgeline via a shoulder and enters a creekbed for the remainder of its length in the unit. Thus, it is either hidden by the topographic screening or unrecognizible as a way.

Along the south boundary a substantially noticeable pipeline swings into the unit and out again. It is bladed and grass is growing in the scar--a stark contrast to the adjacent sage. Within the 320 acres it cuts off is a substantially unnoticeable way. The combined effect of these intrusions is substantially noticeable because of their proximity to one another and the lack of vegetative screening.

There is a small cabin in the northeast portion of the unit in Dry Creek Canyon. Surrounded by canyon walls, it is also substantially unnoticeable.

In the southwestern corner of the unit there are approximately 17 miles of ways (ten miles of which are substantially noticeable) and six miles of fenceline (also substantially noticeable), two miles of pipeline, and a cabin (Eddy's Place). The cabin is located on an inholding but is unavoidable due to its location at the head of Sand Hollow. The cumulative effect of these intrusions is substantially noticeable across 7,060 acres in this corner of the unit.

Solitude: The unit has a north/south ridge through its center, a drainage on both sides, and a pair of ridges to the outside of these, and several small canyons at the north and south ends. This diverse terrain provides outstanding opportunities to achieve solitude. Vegetative screening does not enhance opportunities for solitude except along the riparian zone in Dry Creek. The unit's large size and crescent-like shape add to the opportunity to avoid others within the unit.

The elimination of the southwestern corner because of unnaturalness results in a one and one-half mile wide, four mile long, 2,460-acre narrow neck between the Sand Hollow way and the east boundary. This includes only the east slopes of Sand Hollow and the sagebrush flat above the slopes and extending to the road. Here, the lack of effective topographic and vegetative screening and the small size of the area reduce the opportunity for solitude to less than outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, rock collecting, photography, and sightseing. The combination of opportunities results in an outstanding resource. The hiking and riding activities have interesting, unique, and challenging terrain to pass through, innumerable sites to enjoy, and many locations suitable for overnight stay. These interesting sites provide sightseeing and photographic opportunites. Rock collecting is enjoyable in the many strata and alluvial deposits. Hunting is limited.

The 2,460-acre narrow neck does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation because it does not offer any natural, secluded sites for camping or possess any unique or unusual features for photography or sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: An earlier inventory revealed the possibility of rare, endangered, or endemic plants in the area as well as archeological sites along the streams. There is evidence of recent volcanic activity.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 22,860-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 9,520 acres from further wilderness review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature (except for the developed spring along the west boundary). It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics are the 7,060-acre unnatural area in the southwestern corner that contains many substantially noticeable impacts of man and the 2,460 acres along the eastern boundary that do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-54

Unit Name: Burnt Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 9,600 acres of public land.

Location: Immediately west of Owyhee Reservoir.

Boundaries: The east boundary is formed by Bureau of Reclamation lands. The north, west, and south are bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of ridges, hills, eroded rims and plateaus. Burnt Mountain is in the middle of the unit, forming one main ridgeline extending to the north. To the south the ridge breaks up and slopes down to a major drainage. The western side of the unit is sloping terrain rising up from Oxbow Basin to the ridge; on the east, the ridge falls off abruptly into Owyhee reservoir. The vegetation is desert sage community with a dominance of cheat and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area appears natural. It is basically unaffected by man. A substantially unnoticeable fence extends across the south end. It is the only known intrusion.

Solitude: Because of its terrain and narrowness, the unit offers only a few opportunities for solitude. The limited opportunities which do exist are confined to a single drainage. The rest of the unit consists of a slope, where visitors would be visible from most of the unit. There is no vegetative screening.

The works and activities of man outside the unit detract from the unit's naturalness. In over half the unit, one cannot avoid seeing a highway, campgrounds, resorts, powerboaters, waterskiers and fishermen on or around Owyhee Reservoir and Dam.

Recreation: There are opportunities for day hiking, rock collecting, hunting, photography, sightseeing, and climbing. Isolated campsites for overnight camping are limited. The majority of camping sites are on the high ridges and plateaus. At the south end a couple of grassy areas, in full view of the unit boundary, offer unlimited campsites sites but no solitude. The opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area may be inhabited by rare reptiles not found elsewhere at these elevations. Rare plants may grow on the lava beds.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work within the unit substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-56

Unit Name: Dry Creek Buttes

Revision of Unit Boundary: Unit 3-56 contained 22,240 acres of public land at the close of the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory the south boundary was found to be a way. As a result, the 24,180 acres formerly in Inventory Unit 3-76 are now included in Unit 3-56.

Description

Size: The unit contains 46,420 acres of public land.

Location: The unit is ten miles southwest of Owyhee Dam.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east and south by Bureau of Reclamation Lands. To the north and west are BLM roads. Two dead-end roads penetrate the unit from the west boundary following buried pipelines for approximately five miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes several different types of environments. The north and south ends of the unit contain steep rocky slopes, deep ravines, tall rimrocked buttes and tables, and nine twisting drainages. The central portion of the unit contains low, rolling hills in the west and 100-foot deep sandy gulches in the east. These taper down to the Owyhee Reservoir with steep slopes.

There are seven prominent high points - Red Butte (4,584 feet), North and South Table Mountains, Black Butte, the two Dry Creek Buttes (4,226 and 4,303 feet) and Nanny's Nipple. The mean water level of Owyhee Reservoir is nearly 2,000 feet lower than the high points, which are within three miles of the water. This is an indication of the steepness of the area. The winding pattern of the drainages, gulches, and canyons create highly diverse, deeply incised areas between the high points. All the drainages flow to the reservoir.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable pipeline in the central west portion of the unit leads to all the water developments in the center core of the unit. The pipeline is buried, but a 20-foot bladed road parallels it. The terrain is rolling, and the bladed line is very noticeable as it is linear and climbs over the small hills. Three substantially unnoticeable reservoirs and six miles of accompanying ways are located in the same area. The cumulative impact of the developments is substantially noticeable. A person hiking across the area would see many of them.

Another reservoir and a two-mile way north of the concentration of pipelines, reservoirs, and ways is screened by topography and is substantially unnoticeable.

Two wildlife guzzlers are situated in small gulches between Black Butte and the adjacent southwest boundary. They are substantially unnoticeable because the steep of terrain screens them.

A substantially unnoticeable fenceline crosses the south end of the unit. It is in hilly terrain, crossing ridges and following gulches. Because of the topographic screening, people would not see it unless right next to it.

A horsetrap is located south of the unit's center and another is south of North Table Mountain. They were constructed for a one-time-only gathering and have since fallen into disrepair. They are hidden by the

terrain and are substantially unnoticeable. Two ways leading to them follow the lay of the land around the base of the slopes and up drainage bottoms. Another way, once constructed but no longer maintained, leads through the unit's center to Pelican Point, which is beyond the unit's boundaries. This is the only access to an old airstrip on that point. There are no plans to maintain the way in the future.

The unit appears to be generally natural with the exception of the area containing the pipeline, reservoirs, and ways.

Solitude: The unit is 18 miles long, six miles wide, and has an oval shape. There is no vegetative screening in most of the unit. The draws and canyons contain many secluded sites. Except when on a prominent high point, the twisting drainages and the ridges, hilltops, and buttes would limit a visitor's views. They could easily escape the sight of others. The area offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, day hiking, rock hunting, photography, rock climbing, and sightseeing. Campsites are numerous, level, and protected. The attractiveness of the area for recreational activities is enhanced by the rimrocked buttes and razorbacks, rolling hills and canyons, the proximity of the Owyhee reservoir, water sources for wildlife, and scenic vistas within and out of the unit. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are outstanding.

Supplmental Values: Scenic views from the unit include the Owyhee Breaks, the Owyhee Reservoir, the Owyhee Mountains, and the Honeycombs/Leslie Gulch areas. The unit offers opportunities for geological study.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 43,700-acre wildeness study area. Eliminate 2,720 acres from further review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area eliminated includes approximately 20 acres of substantially noticeable intrusions and 2,700 acres isolated from the rest of the unit by the intrusions.

Unit Number: 3-57

Unit Name: Quartz Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 15,420 acres. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the center.

Location: Six miles west of Owyhee Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by private property and a county road. There are roads to the north and south, and to the east is a road and private property. From a point midway along the west boundary a one-mile-long dead-end road extends into the unit to a stockwatering pit.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains deeply incised hillsides and draws, steep slopes, a major canyon, and the chalky Owyhee Breaks. Much of the unit is sand and gravel. Quartz Mountain (5,237 ft) is located on the west boundary. From the mountain, the unit slopes down to Red Butte Canyon and Quartz Mountain Basin. The terrain is covered with sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A fenceline crosses the unit from the southwest to the northeast, then back across the unit to the northwest. Although originally bladed, it has regenerated enough to be substantially unnoticeable. Along this fenceline near the west-central boundary is a stockwatering pit. Since it is up on a ridgetop, it remains substantially unnoticeable.

There are several old, worked mining claims in the unit but due to their small size and the terrain, they are substantially unnoticeable. A way enters and leaves the unit along the east boundary. It follows along, under, or between natural features and is substantially unnoticeable.

The unit remains apparently natural.

Solitude: The unit is seven miles long and one to five miles wide. The northern portion is a narrow neck along a slope. It is only two miles wide, three miles long, and is in open, rolling terrain. The opportunity for solitude is restricted by the unit's size and shape and lack of screening. In the southwest portion of the unit a piece of private land parallels the south boundary creating a narrow, one-half-mile wide neck. This portion is a sagebrush flat and lacks an opportunity for solitude because of its size and lack of screening. A third narrow neck exists between the stockwatering pit's access road and the nearest boundary. This neck is an open slope with no vegetative screening. It is three-quarters of a mile wide and descends to the boundary. It does not offer opportunities for solitude. Although there is little vegetative screening in the rest of the unit, the terrain is diverse. The ridges, breaks, and ravines along higher slopes and the rolling hills on the lower part of the unit provide outstanding opportunities to escape the presence of others.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. Hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding are limited opportunities due to the unit's narrowness and steepness. Photography and sightseeing opportunities are outstanding due to the multi-colored strata and scenic vistas of the Owyhee Breaks, Red Butte, the Honeycombs, and the Owyhee Mountains and River. The northern and southwest arms and the narrow western arm do not offer the same quality opportunity because they are cut off from these views by ridge lines.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers opportunities for geological studies through the breaks and lower canyons.

Proposed Decision : Designate a 11,080-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate from further review 4,340 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The unit appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The portions lacking wilderness characteristics are the narrow necks in the north (3,280 acres) and the south (720 acres) ends of the unit, and the 340-acre western neck. They do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-59

Unit Name: Lower Owyhee River

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 13,100 acres. During the intensive inventory, minor map errors along the legal boundaries were corrected. The unit is 500 acres smaller than reported in the initial inventory. A road identified during the intensive inventory divides the unit into two subunits in the southeast corner. Subunit B is 100 acres and does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas; it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-59A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 13,000 acres of public land. There are six private inholdings, totaling 360 acres, in the central portion of the unit.

Location: The subunit is immediately east of "The Hole in the Ground" of the Owyhee River and 25 miles north of Rome.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the south and southeast by county roads, to the northwest by a BLM road and private property, and to the northeast by private property and Bureau of Reclamation lands. Small portions of the southwest corner are along private properties.

Physical Characterists: The southern third of the subunit is the plateau above the Owyhee Breaks. There are two large hills in this area. The saddle between the hills divides this portion into two slopes--one descending toward the southern border and one toward the rim of the Breaks. The rim falls 1,740 feet in one mile to the Owyhee River. The Owyhee River flows through the unit. Five side drainages enter the river, the largest of which is three miles long and drains off the southern rim. Climbing up the north side of the river are several very steep bluffs, slopes, and an alluvial fan. These continue in a stairstep pattern up to the northern boundary in a complex system of gulches, ravines, hilltops, ridges, and slopes.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs are located near the southwest corner. Two are relatively small and not far from the south rim. They are screened by the surrounding topography and are substantially unnoticeable. The third is in the extreme southwest corner of the unit. This area is separated from the rest of the unit by a long, gradual, crescent-shaped slope that surrounds the reservoir. The amphitheater-like shape of this slope directs attention to the large reservoir at the bottom, causing it to be substantially noticeable. The dam and adjacent excavation are obvious works of man.

There are six miles of fence. They are mostly below the southern rim on steep slopes and in ravines. They are substantially unnoticeable because the terrain screens them from view.

There are two ways to the reservoir in the southwest corner, one from the western boundary and one from the southern boundary. They are substantially noticeable because they are next to the reservoir and close to the unit boundaries. A third way cuts across the southern end of the unit just above the rim. It connects the two reservoirs in this area to the east and west boundaries. Because the rolling terrain and sagebrush hide it from view, this way is substantially unnoticeable.

A fire occurred in the southeast corner of the unit in 1973. The vegetation is recovering.

Solitude: The unit is shaped like a "T" and is of a fair size. There is virtually no vegetative screening within the unit, but the topography is diverse. There are a number of hidden draws and drainages. Many of the slopes are 75 percent or greater. The hills and ridgelines on the north side follow twisting, varied patterns. This type of topographic relief provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, river rafting, kayaking, canoeing, photography and sightseeing. The hiking is fairly challenging. There are enough features and attractions with secluded campsites to make overnight stays attractive to backpackers, rock climbers, river travelers, and hunters. The unit is not large enough for extensive touring, yet it offers many opportunities for day hiking and exploring. Photographic opportunities are abundant. Fishing and hunting are good.

Because of the number and quality of activities that can be experienced here, the opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area offers excellent scenic vistas and geological features. This unit is located in the central portion of the Owyhee Breaks, the area known as "The Hole in the Ground". As a result, it provides interpretational and educational opportunities. There is also a fair number of animals as a result of the river.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,800 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 200 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprint of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area lacking wilderness characteristics is the 200-acre southwest corner with a reservoir and two ways. Here the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Unit Number: 3-68

Unit Name: McIntyre Ridge

Description

Size: The unit contains 14,540 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 40 acres in the south-central portion of the unit.

Location: Eight miles north of Rockville, Oregon.

Boundaries: The unit is bound on the east by a county road and Succor Creek State Park, to the south and west by a BLM road, and to the north by another road. A dead-end road penetrates two miles to McIntyre Reservoir No. 2 from the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains the 4,600 foot, steep, rocky, narrow McIntyre Ridge west of Succor Creek. In the center of the unit the ridge is cut by Board Corral Gulch and Sage Creek. The lowest part of the unit is at the north end, near 2,640 feet. West of the main ridge is a shorter, secondary ridge that has rimrock and walls in places. The unit contains the draw between these two ridgelines. Sage Creek Canyon is an interesting display of color and erosion. Vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three reservoirs in the unit. Two are near each other in the south central area behind McIntyre Ridge; one is near the western boundary. A third is along the northern boundary. All are substantially noticeable because of their proximity to the boundary, their large size, or the cumulative impact of ways and fences coupled with the reservoir.

There are four spring developments, all substantially unnoticeable due to their small size and hidden locations.

There are mined areas in the northwest and the northeast corners. The northeast one is substantially noticeable. It is about the size of a football field and has been carved out of a slope in some low-lying hills. The line and color contrast stand out from the surrounding area. The northwest excavation is small and high upon a ridge. Since it is above the surrounding area, it is largely hidden from sight and is, therefore, substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 600 acres of the 1968 Sheepsheads Seeding, a plow and drill project, are along the western side. Because of the obvious pasture contrast, the surrounding fence, the furrows, and its situation along the boundary at the bottom of a slope, this development is substantially noticeable.

There are approximately six miles of fence besides those around the seeding. These fences are substantially unnoticeable because they are short stretches that connect ridgeline breaks or cross draws to prevent stock migration.

A stone walled horsetrap exists in the southern tip of the unit. It is substantially noticeable because it is between the boundary and the ridgeline, which focuses visual attention upon it. It has a linear, unnatural shape and, there are two ways leading to it, which add to the cummulative impact.

Criss-crossing the unit are about twenty miles of ways, mostly the result of ORV use. Many of these are up the gulches and drainages where forks dead-end at rockhounding dig sites. The eastern slopes of the ridge are heavily traveled. There are many ways and diggings, and the cumulative effect upon the unit is substantially noticeable. Generally, the unit does not appear to have been effected primarily by the forces of nature; the works of man have become substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is ten miles long and averages two miles wide. There are two ridgelines with a small drainage between them. There is virtually no vegetative screening.

Due to its narrow configuration, lack of natural, secluded sites, open slopes and lack of vegetative screening, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing. The unit is too small for extensive touring because of its narrowness. Yet it offers very challenging hiking and climbing due to the sheer walls. The sightseeing includes outstanding views of Succor Creek Canyon and of its own McIntyre Ridge.

The combination of variety, quality and challenge result in an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation within this unit.

Supplemental Values: The area is known for its uncommon geologic features; it offers opportunities for scientific and educational study. The unit also is very scenic.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Nor does it provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Sage Creek Canyon displays interesting, unique, and colorful geologic erosional formations.

Unit Number: 3-70A

Unit Name: Spring Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-70 contains 10,080 acres. During the Intensive Inventory portions of the boundary roads were found not to exist. As a result, an additional 13,880 acres were added to the unit. Also, a road was found in the southwestern corner. This created two subunits. Subunit 3-70B is 340 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-70A

Description.

Size: The subunit contains 23,620 acres of public land. There are six private inholdings scattered across the unit (three 640-acre parcels, one 760-acre parcel, and two 40-acre parcels). There is one State inholding of 40 acres.

Location: 11 miles north of Jordan Valley, Oregon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east by private property and State Highway 95; and to the south, west and north by private property and a county road. A dead-end road penetrates the subunit from the southern border. It traverses Thomas Creek Ridge to private property in the unit's center. Another dead-end road enters the unit at the bottom of Thomas Creek Ridge to gain access to a gravel pit. Another dead-end road enters the unit from the east side to a triangulation site on a hilltop adjacent to the highway.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains the 5,944-foot tabletop mountain known as Spring Mountain. From the many natural springs found on and around the tabletop flow Spring Branch, Old Maids, Thomas, Wilson, O'Keefe, Whiskey, Hog Gulch, and Mahogany Creeks. Thomas Creek Ridge rises to 5,070 feet in the southeastern corner of the subunit. The northeastern portion of the subunit contains rolling, parallel hills on the side of Spring Mountain. The vegetation is sagebrush and range grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a diversion ditch along Spring Branch Creek in the southern portion of the subunit. The slopes here are gradual, and the drainage is shallow. The ditch follows the contours of a hillside out of the drainage to another, creating a highly visible, substantially noticeable cut across the slope that is accented by greener vegetation.

A water pipeline begins at a spring in the northeast corner and exits the subunit two miles from the spring. It parallels a fence and has an adjacent constructionmaintenance way. It passes over low, rolling hills. It is substantially noticeable.

A radio repeater site is located in the southeastern corner. It is on the high point of Thomas Creek Ridge. An access road spirals up the end of the ridge, and the facility is immediately adjacent to it. The cummulative effect is substantially noticeable.

There are five seedings in the subunit. The 120-acre Spring Mountain Seeding was plowed and drilled in the northeastern corner in 1969. It is along the boundary road, crossed by two ways, and is on rolling terrain. The non-native grass provides a color contrast. For these reasons, it is substantially noticeable. The four remaining seedings adjoin each other along the western boundary. They are the 1963 and 1964 Old Maid's Basin Seedings, the 1964 Sticky Joe Seeding, and the 1969 Falen Seeding. All were plowed and drilled. The 1963 Old Maid's Basin Seeding has largely regenerated and is no longer noticeable to the untrained eye. The remaining three, more successful, still provide a color and pasture contrast, exhibit furrows and drill rows, lie along the unit boundary on a slope that leans toward it, are surrounded and crossed by fences and have one way across them. The cumulative effect of these factors upon this area (1,340 acres), which is surrounded by a fence, is substantially noticeable. At the foot of Thomas Creek Ridge is a large gravel pit at the end of a dead-end road. Its size, the access road, the color contrast, the exposed earth, the proximity to the boundary and the creek, and its situation at the end of a drainage, make this borrow pit substantially noticeable.

There are about fourteen miles of ways in the subunit, most of which are in the eastern half. One parallels a fence along the eastern boundary across the open hillsides in that area. The cumulative effect of the way and fence as a result of their location and high visibility make them substantially noticeable. In the northeastern corner two ways join to provide access to Shorthorn, Hereford, and Fenwich Springs in the headwaters of Hog Gulch. Often used, the way extends across open slopes and straight up a ridgeline. It is substantially noticeable because it is highly visible from the slopes above and below. It is not effectively hidden by topographic screening. A cluster of ways cross each other between the private inholdings in the north end and the north boundary. Due to their number, the small, narrow neck that they cross, and their proximity to the boundary, they would be seen frequently by a person crossing the area on foot; the cumulative effect is substantially noticeable.

Several miles of other short ways are overgrown, hidden by topography located intermittently across the unit, and are substantially unnoticeable. There are about seven miles of fenceline, in addition to those previously listed. Both of the northern inholdings are surrounded by fences. The southern boundary is marked by a fence along private property. The seven miles connect the northern inholdings to off-unit pastures and to the easternmost inholding, which is also surrounded by fence. The many fences in the northeastern third of the subunit would be seen frequently by persons moving through the area. They are not hidden by the topography and therefore are substantially noticeable.

The overall effect of these intrusions across the subunit is that it does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprint of man's work are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit is six by seven miles in size forming a rounded configuration. However, 2,800 acres of inholdings are scattered throughout the unit (the majority being in the eastern two-thirds) resulting in several narrow necks within the subunit. Altogether there are 15 miles of corridors, averaging about a mile wide. The lack of vegetative screening, coupled with the limited topographic screening and the fact that visitors would be confined to narrow corridors, means that opportunities to acheve solitude in the eastern two-thirds would not be outstanding. The western third consists of half of the tabletop and its western slope to the seeded area. There is virtually no vegetative cover or topographic screening. This portion, five miles long, one and one-half to two miles wide, is too small to provide outstanding solitude without adequate screening. Therefore, it does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, and some sightseeing within this subunit. The unit is large enough for overnight stay and touring provided a visitor routes the trip along the narrow necks. Restriction to the travel corridors does not provide an outstanding opportunity for an unconfined type of recreation. The photography and sightseeing opportunities are limited due to the lack of unique, unusual features within the unit. Hunting is good due to the numerous springs, but carrying capacity is too small for it to be outstanding. Due to the lack of unusual or interesting features, the poor configurations, the openness of the hillsides, table, and slopes coupled with the moderate topographic screening, the lack of natural, secluded level camp sites that offer shelter, the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive or unconfined type of recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-73

Unit Name: Blue Canyon

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory it was found that portions of the west, north, and south boundaries were incorrectly mapped in the initial inventory. As a result, the unit has 360 more acres than indicated in the report on the final decision for the initial inventory.

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,520 acres of public land. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the southeastern portion of the unit.

Location: The unit is on the east side of the Owyhee River, 26 miles northwest of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west and north by Bureau of Reclamation, State and private land. The eastern boundary is a BLM road and private property. The southern boundary is a county road. A dead-end road enters from the southwest boundary and penetrates one mile to a mine.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is part of the Owyhee Breaks, and forms the east wall of an area known as "The Hole in the Ground". Tall bluffs rise up from the river. A razorback ridge juts out due north from the bluff's plateau. At the northern end of this ridge is Diamond Butte, with the Owyhee river winding around it. Blue Canyon drains from the plateau along the east side of the ridge. The bluffs continue and exit the unit midway along the eastern boundary. The southern end of the unit is on a plateau. The sparse vegetation in the unit is sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A fenced 1,160-acre area along the south boundary extending almost to the rim was part of the 1965 Blue Canyon brush control spraying. It remains substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast at the fenceline. The fence enters the unit from the south boundary, loops around the spraying, then ends at the plateau's rim.

Within this spraying is a reservoir that is substantially noticeable due to the level terrain. This causes the mounds of the dam and excavation to be visible for long distances.

Another short fence penetrates the unit's southern tip for one-quarter mile; it ends at the rim. Because it is so short it is substantially unnoticeable.

Along the northern end of the western boundary is a way. Once improved, it is no longer maintained or used and vegetation is growing in it. The way also passes through hilly terrain and is substantially unnoticeable.

A series of ways exist at the bottom of Blue Canyon as a result of ORV use. These scars are in rolling terrain and are not well established. Vegetation is starting to grow in the tracks, and they are not substantially noticeable.

There are four mines in this unit. Three are substantially unnoticeable because they are located in recesses in the bluffs and therefore hidden from view. The fourth is a large excavation on an open slope and is visible from the slopes below. Because of its size and the contrast between its color of its surroundings, the mine and the zig-zagging access road are substantially noticeable. A number of once-bladed exploration scars work down from the mine to the west side of the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because they followed the ridgetops and are mostly overgrown with vegetation.

Solitude: There is virtually no vegetative screening throughout the unit. There is abundant topographic screening. The topographic relief compensates for the unit's moderate size and narrow shape. There are narrow necks at the north and south ends of the unit, but these include the highly dissected bluffs and the Diamond Butte ridgeline. Blue Canyon, which has a total drainage of six miles, offers numerous secluded sites. There are many gulches in the northwest. Because of the topographic screening, the unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are outstanding opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, photography, and sight seeing in this unit. The hiking would include exploration of canyons and gulches and the conquest of a steep ridge. Rock climbing opportunities can be found along the west side of the ridgeline and above Blue Canyon. Opportunities for photography within and looking out of this unit are outstanding due to the unique geologic features and their variety. The unit offers limited overnight camping opportunities; the majority of the sites are in Blue Canyon.

Supplemental Values: There are excellent scenic views of the "Hole in the Ground", the Red Butte and Quartz Mountain areas, and the Owyhee Breaks. The geologic formations within the unit are a good educational tool.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,360-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the 1,160-acre brush control area and the mine site because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to be generally natural. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics where the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable include the 1,160 acres of brush control along the south boundary and the mine southwest of the unit's center.

Unit Number: 3-74

Unit Name: Bannock Ridge

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the Intensive Inventory, a road was identified which divids Unit 3-74 into two subunits. Subunit B contains 460 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-74A

Description

Size: 11,940 acres of public land.

Location: Two miles east of Rockville, Oregon.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the north by a BLM road, to the south, east and west by a combination of private property and other roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains two ridges - Grassy and Bannock - that are separated by Bannock Gulch. The ridges reach an elevation of 5,535 feet and 5,391 feet. The lowest point in the subunit is around 3,800 feet. The westernmost portion of the unit contains the head of Leslie Gulch, known for its interesting geologic formations. Along the southern boundary is a peak known as Rocky Butte. These southern slopes drain into Carter Creek and the Whitenburg. Bannock Ridge and Grassy Ridge have some very small patches of juniper. Individual, remote junipers appear scattered across much of the area. The most common vegetation is bunchgrass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The 2,460-acre Spring Creek Seeding was plowed and drilled along the east boundary in 1967. The furrows and lines on the rolling hills are still visible and the color contrast between the native and introduced vegetation is obvious. The area is crossed by ways and surrounded by a fence. The seeding is substantially noticeable.

A bentonite mine with several excavations is also located along the eastern boundary. The 20-acre area is right off the boundary road. Since the excavations are on the eastern slope of some low hills that face the boundary, they are substantially noticeable.

Several ways cross the unit, most provide access to developed springs. One is up a straight draw from the north boundary. Because it is

visible down its length and exhibits a considerable scar, it is substantially noticeable. Another way cuts across the center of the unit and climbs up Grassy Ridge. This was a fence and spring construction access route. Not effectively hidden by the topographic screening, it is substantially noticeable.

There are about four miles of fence in the area, three of which are along the top of Grassy Ridge. These fences are substantially unnoticeable because of their short lengths and invisibility at a distance. Another fence surrounds the seeded area and is substantially noticeable because of the vegetative contrast.

Behind Rocky Butte is a short stone wall to restrict stock drift from one pasture to another. Due to its location (high upon the ridge between the Butte and some rimrock), its short length, and no color contrast, it is substantially unnoticeable.

Generally the area east of Grassy Ridge does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature due to the cumulative effect of the impacts of man that cut the unit up into small portions and the resulting frequency of contact. The 3,200 acres west of the ridge are pristine.

Solitude: The subunit is oval-shaped, averaging five miles by two and one-half miles. The single juniper trees do not supply vegetative screening. The slopes of Bannock Ridge do not provide topographic screening. This subunit is a ridgeline with roads on both sides. Consequently, there is no outstanding opportunity for solitude on these slopes.

The western end of the subunit contains the head of Leslie Gulch, which is a steep-sided, twisting, deep gulch that offers many opportunities for solitude. This area contains less than two miles of the canyon, which is too short to consider outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sight seeing within this subunit. The subunit can be crossed in one hour north to south or three hours west to east. This is too small for extensive touring. These activities are not outstanding in this area because of its size, and the lack of unusual or unique features and secluded sites. The western portion offers outstanding opportunities for climbing, photography, and sightseeing due to the geologic formations and twisting canyon. This is the pristine 3,200 acres mentioned earlier.

Supplemental Values: The Leslie Gulch portion contains highly unique and unusual geologic features of volcanic ash, pinnicles, and outcrops for observation and study. This area is also a bighorn sheep range. It may also contain various rare and endangered plants.

Proposed Decision: Designate 3,200 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 8,740 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area in the western end of the subunit is essentially natural. It is too small for outstanding opportunities for solitude but it does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Due to the easily identifiable boundaries (two roads and a fenceline) this portion can be easily managed and is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The 8,740 acres proposed for elimination do not appear generally natural and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. They do not offer an outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-75

Unit Name: Black Rock

Description

Size: 6,800 acres.

Location: Eight miles west of Rockville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by the Leslie Gulch road. The remainder is bounded by private property, roads and Bureau of Reclamation land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of rugged, deep, colorful canyons with eroded volcanic tuff pinnacles. Major drainages includeSlocum Creek, Spring Creek and Schoolhouse Gulch. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and native grasses, with scattered juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears to be generally natural with only a faint way and a parallel fence extending down a ridgetop for approximately two miles.

Solitude: The rugged topography, with its many deep canyons and side drainages, provides an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive recreation activities. They include hiking, camping, (scenery and wildlife) and hunting. There are many unique orinteresting topographic features in the unit. The topography offers challenging hiking and exploring opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include bighorn sheep, geologic formations, scenery and possibly rare and endangered plant species.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 6,800-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-77

Unit Name: Honeycombs

Revision of Unit Boundary: During the intensive inventory two roads in the vicinity of Road Canyon were identified, creating three subunits (A-42,000 acres, B-12,000 acres and C-920 acres). Subunit C does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. It is not described below. The road forming the east boundary was not drawn correctly on the initial inventory map. Its actual location is shown on the accompanying map.

Subunit Number: 3-77A

Description

Size: 42,000 acres.

Location: The subunit is located nine miles south of Owyhee Dam.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the west by Bureau of Reclamation land and by roads on the remainder. Dead-end roads are located on Steamboat Ridge, and in Craig Gulch and Schadscale Flat.

Physical Characteristics: The most unique and striking physical features of the subunit are the geologic formations of eroded and weathered volcanic tuffs in Leslie Gulch, Carlton Canyon and the Honeycombs area. Many rugged breaks draining into Owyhee Reservoir dissect the area into extremely rough broken terrain. Major canyons include Iron Mountain, Painted, Carlton, Three Fingers, and Craig. Other prominent features include Steamboat Ridge, Shadscale Flat, Saddle Butte, Juniper Ridge, Sheephead Basin, Iron Mountain and many gulches. Vegetation is a sagebrush community grading into a salt desert shrub community in the south. There are a few scattered juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include a 2,000-acre crested wheatgrass seeding and two miles of buried pipeline in the northeast; approximately ten to 15 disturbed mining areas mainly along the east boundary; 15 to 20 miles of ways in the mining areas and the Road Canyon/Iron Mountain area; eight miles of fence in the northeast and on Steamboat Ridge; three horse traps; and three reservoirs dispersed along the east boundary.

The seeding and the pipeline located in it are substantially noticeable due to the obvious rows of crested wheatgrass and the well defined linear contrast in vegetation along the edges.

The mining claims with visible ground disturbance are small, spread out, and screened by the topography. As a result,they are substantially unnoticeable.

With the possible exception of those in Shadscale Flat the ways are substantially unnoticeable since they are screened by topography, are not concentrated, or are not well established.

The fences, horse traps and reservoirs either blend into the natural landscape or are screened by topography. They are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The area east of the Craig Gulch and Steamboat Ridge roads is isolated from the rest of the subunit by a narrow one-quarter-mile wide neck situated on an exposed open slope. There is little opportunity for solitude through the narrow neck or in the small 3,500 acre area to the east. The area lacks vegetative screening and significant topographic screening. The rolling hills and shallow ravines are exposed to at least one of the boundaries. The remainder of the subunit has outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the diverse topography and its large size.

Recreation: The 3,500-acre area which lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude also lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area consists of rolling sagebrush hills with no unique or interesting attractions. It is small and all of it is within view of at least one road. The remainder of the subunit possesses outstanding opportunities due to the unique geologic formations, exceptional scenic vistas and unusual and exciting wildlife.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include the geologic formations, scenic vistas, bighorn sheep, wild horses, and rare or endangered plants associated with volcanic ash soils.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 36,500-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 5,500 acres which do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The area recommended as a wilderness study area generally appears to be natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The areas proposed for elimination from wilderness

review include 2,000 acres which do not appear to be generally natural and 3,500 acres which do not offer any outstanding solitude or primitive recreation opportunities.

Subunit Number: 3-77B

Description

Size: 12,000 acres of public land. One 40-acre parcel of private property is located in the southeast.

Location: The subunit is located three miles south of Owyhee Dam.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north and west by Bureau of Reclamation land and by roads on the remainder.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is comprised of several prominent drainages connecting the north end of Owyhee Ridge to Owyhee Reservoir. They include Birch, Indian, Deer, Wild Horse and Cherry Creek drainages. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimun size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include three reservoirs, two wildlife water guzzlers, two developed springs, a horse trap, two miles of fence and five miles of ways. All of them are substantially unnoticeable due to their minor impact upon the natural landscape and the topographic screening.

Solitude: Despite the subunit's small size and the absence of vegetative screening, the extremely broken topography provides many opportunities for seclusion.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, sightseeing and hunting are present. The opportunities are outstanding because of the area's unique and diverse terrain.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include wild horses, scenery, and opportunities to sudy geological features.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,000-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It offers outstanding opportunties for solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-79

Unit Name: Mahogany Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: A road identified during the intensive inventory divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit B contains 100 acres and does not meet any of the size criteria; it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-79A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 10,500 acres of public land.

Location: The subunit is one mile southwest of Rockville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by a BLM road and private land, on the west by private land, and on the south and east by county roads. Two dead-end roads penetrate the subunit from the south boundary for about one-quarter mile each.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains the east ridge of Mahogany Mountain. The tallest point is near 6000 feet, the lowest near 3900 feet. The area is mainly steep-sided, flat-topped ridges. A deep canyon in the unit's center contains Carter Creek. The vegetation is mountain mahogany, aspen, willows, sagebrush, and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A 1,700-acre crested wheatgrass seeding is located along the east boundary. Situated upon rolling, open county, this 1970 plowed and drilled project is substantially noticeable due to the color contrast, the linear drill rows and surrounding ways and fencelines.

The subunit contains four developed springs, all of which have access ways. The ways are hidden enough by the terrain and the springs are small enough to be substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 17 miles of fence line cross the unit, two miles of which are bladed. None of them are substantially noticeable because they are screened by the terrain.

Approximately 11 miles of ways cut through the fringes of the unit. A few extend along the east boundary through the seeded area. A 1,240-acre area in the northeast corner contains a concentration of substantially noticeable ways. Another cluster of ways in a 980-acres area in the northwestcorner parallel each other, cross and follow fencelines, and are substantially noticeable.

The areas with the substantially noticeable ways and seeding in the northeast and northwest corners contain a total of 6,880 acres.

Solitude: The part of the unit which remains in a generally natural condition is shaped like the letter "P". The narrow western neck averages a half-mile wide and three miles long. It offers a certain degree of solitude due to the diverse terrain and some vegetative cover, but it is too narrow for the opportunities to be considered outstanding.

The rest of the area which remains in a natural condition is approximately two and one-half miles square. The terrain consists of one large hill in the center with the Carter Creek canyon on the west and a tributary of Spring Creek on the east. There is little vegetative cover except in Carter Creek canyon. The expansive open slopes do not contain secluded sites and do not provide outstanding opportunities to avoid others and to achieve solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photograghy, and sightseeing. However, the subunit can be crossed in two hours in any direction and is too small for extensive touring. The single attractive feature, Carter Creek canyon, is only two miles long. Although heavily wooded, it is narrow and fairly short. This would confine visitor use to a limited number of secluded sites. Photography and sight seeing are limited by the lack of unusual features. Hunting is below average due to a lack of vegetative screening. The hiking and riding activities are limited by the area's small size and lack of challenge. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Supplemental Value: Carter Creek canyon offers zoological and botanical educational opportunities. Dogwood, willow, choke cherry, roses, moss and currents grow in the canyon. Animals in the canyon include deer, warblers, tailed towhees, raptors, and the Weidemeyers Admirals butterfly, whose distribution in Oregon is limited.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of the seeded area along the eastern boundary and the intruded northeast and northwest corners, the area appears to be generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. However, the remainder of the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-80

Unit Name: Mud Flat

Description

Size: 8,760 acres.

Location: Three miles southwest of the south end of Owyhee Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east by a BLM road, to the south by private property, to the west by private property and State property, and to the north by a road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit lies in the center of the Owyhee Breaks. The unit is basically a hillside between state and private property above the rim and private property at the bottom. The east-facing hillside is deeply eroded into steep ravines and ridges with open slopes. The vegetation is sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one fenceline that crosses the unit parallel to the western boundary. It is substantially unnoticeable because it is above the unit's rim and out of view.

Solitude: The unit is three miles wide and four miles long. A one-quarter-mile wide arm extends out above the rim into a flat area. There is virtually no vegetative screening anywhere in the unit. The topographic diversity does not provide isolated, secluded areas. All drainages face the same direction. As a result, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity to hike, photograph, and sightsee in this unit. The hiking is limited to a ten percent grade, with contouring extremely difficult or impossible. The unit can be crossed in a matter of hours. There are no level areas along the ridges or drainage bottoms to serve as secluded sights. Photography and sightseeing are restricted to subjects that are off the unit. The opportunity for primitive recreation is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental value is the scenic vistas of features out of the unit. These features are the Owyhee River and Reservoir, the Owyhee Range, Red Butte, Dry Creek Buttes, and the Owyhee Breaks.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-82

Unit Name: Washboard Reservoir

Description

Size: There are 7,040 acres of public land in this unit.

Location: The unit is 20 miles due south of Harper Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north and east by BLM roads and by another road to the west and south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is basically a gentle slope from north to south, down to Hurley Flat. This slope has been eroded to form several hills at the north end with one small rimrock outcrop and consequent semi-parallel draws down to the flat. Vegetation on these slopes consists of sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are five reservoirs in the unit. They are scattered around the unit, one along each boundary and two along the east boundary. They are at the bottom of draws at the unit's boundaries and rolling hills obscures them from view. They are substantially unnoticeable. The unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the lack of diverse terrain and absence of vegetative screening, and the unit's relatively small size. Although the shape is an oval, the unit offers only a one-mile trek to its center. It is only two miles by four miles in size. Because of the lack of topographic relief, one can view the entire unit from the north end. These factors minimize the opportunities of a user to avoid the presence of other users.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, and photography within this unit. These opportunities are not outstanding because of the lack of diverse and interesting terrain. The unit offers no challenge. The small size limits enjoyable hiking to less than one hour. Horseback riding is even further confined. The open terrain offers a small carrying capacity for game. Photography is limited by a lack of pronounced subjects.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunties for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-100

Unit Name: Duck Pond

Revisions of Unit Boundary: The unit contains 19,780 acres. It contained 15,900 acres prior to the intensive inventory. A portion of the southern boundary was found to be a way, adding an additional 3,880 acres. Several roads were identified inside the unit, dividing the unit into five subunits. Four of the subunits are less than 5,000 acres (Subunit B-3,840; Subunit C-2,760; Subunit D-1,480; and Subunit E-120) and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-100A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 11,580 acres of public land. There are three inholdings of private property totalling 120 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Warm Springs Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private property and roads. Three dead-end roads enter the unit; their total length is approximately four miles.

Physical Characteristics: The north-south crest of the Stockade Mountains disects the center of the northern two-thirds of the unit. This prominent ridge then traverses the western boundary of the southern one-third of the unit. Gently rolling slopes with shallow ravines and small canyons connect the high ridge line to the east and west boundaries. Vegetation is predominantly low to medium high sagebrush with native grasses and scattered juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Because of the cumulative effect of 13 reservoirs with over ten miles of associated ways, a 2,500-acre brush control area and over seven miles of fenceline, the subunit does not appear generally natural.

Solitude: The subunit is approximately eight miles long and varies in width from one-half to four miles. The scattered junipers, the low to medium high brush, and the gently rolling, open slopes provide few opportunities to find solitude from other visitors.

Recreation: Deer hunting is the major recreational use of the area. However, due to small game populations, hunting is not outstanding. No other primitive recreation opportunities are outstanding in the unit because the terrain offers little challenge and contains few interesting features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, nor does it offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-105

Unit Name: Piute

Description

Size: The unit contains 9,400 acres, including 640 acres of state land presently in the process of being acquired. There are two private inholdings totalling 120 acres.

Location: Three miles north of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the south by state exchange land and private property, to the west and east by private property, and to the north by an alternating pattern of private property and a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of one large hill and five drainages running toward Turnbull Lake. One of the drainages contains rimrock. None are deep. The east half of the unit contains open, grassy hillsides of bunchgrass. Juniper, larkspur, and grasses grow in deeper ravines in the west half. A tall hill in the center is covered with juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are two reservoirs and two developed springs in the unit. The springs are at the east end, behind a hillside, and a out of view. One reservoir is in the center and one is in the west end; both are in ravines and are substantially unnoticeable. Ways lead to both reservoirs from the north border. Another way cuts through the unit's center in a north-south direction. The ways are substantially unnoticeable because of the vegetative screening. A substantially noticeable fenceline cuts across the eastern end of the unit. The fenceline is bladed and is across open terrain. With the exception of the fenceline, the unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: The terrain is diverse but does not provide outstanding opportunities to avoid others. The size and shape of the unit restrict the opportunity for solitude. The unit is only one mile wide, except at the west end, where the dimensions are two miles by three miles. Despite considerable vegetative screening in the west end this portion is too small to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The east portion is small, narrow, open and not conducive to an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, photography, and sightseeing. The opportunities for hiking and backpacking are not outstanding because the unit is too small. The area is very popular for deer hunting. Horseback riding would be very enjoyable in this unit. The terrain is rolling and there is ample water and pasture, but the unit is too small for overnight treks. Sightseeing would include views out of the unit of the Sheepsheads, Trout Creeks, the distant Owyhees, Saddle Butte, and part of the Steens. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area contains cultural and archaeological sites. There are no other known supplemental values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable with the exception of the bladed fenceline. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-107

Unit Name: Obenchain

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-107 contains 11, 360 acres. The southern boundary, as mapped in the initial inventory, was found to be a way when the intensive inventory field work was conducted. In addition three roads were identified within the unit. As a result, 5,060 acres in the southern portion of the Unit 3-107, as shown on the initial inventory map, are now in Unit 3-111. There are three subunits in 3-107. Two of the subunits are less then 5,000 acres and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria (220 and 180 acres). They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 107A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 6,300 acres of public land.

Location: The subunit is 18 miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the east and south by constructed fenceline roads and to the west by a BLM road. The northern boundary is defined by land soon to be acquired by the State in the Stockade State Land Exchange.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of old lava flows and desert flats with sagebrush and grass. There are occasional small hills and several playas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The only intrusions within the unit are one pit reservoir and one well along the west boundary. The reservoir is substantially unnoticeable because it is hidden in a depression. The well is a minor intrusion which blends into a nearby slope and is hardly noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit is only two and one-half miles wide and four miles long over flat terrain. Confined in such a small area of sagebrush flats one cannot find an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities to backpack, camp, horseback ride, and photograph in this area, but none are outstanding due to the uniform terrain and relatively small size of the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Name: Turnbull Peak

Unit Number: 3-108

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-108 contained 13,360 acres in the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory field work, a road was found to cut off 520 acres in the southeast corner. The northeast boundary of this cut-off portion was found to be a way, combining it with Unit 3-111. A portion of the southwest boundary of Unit 3-108 was found to be a way. An additional 400 acres were added as a result of relocating the boundary to the next identifiable road.

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,240 acres, including 120 acres of State land presently in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is immediately west of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the southwest by State Highway 78, to the northwest by state and private land and a county road, to the east by a BLM road, and to the south by a county road.

Physical Characteristics: There are a few small lava beds in the south end of the unit. North of the lava beds are rolling hills of two to three hundred feet, with occasional rimrock. The vegetation is sage and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable powerline is adjacent to the southwest boundary. The tall poles can be seen from throughout the generally flat, northwest portion of the unit.

A substantially unnoticeable bladed fenceline extends across the southeast portion of the unit. It has been largely overgrown with vegetation.

Five reservoirs are located in the north half. Two are near the unit's boundaries. All are substantially unnoticeable because of the diverse terrain. A substantially unnoticeable way winds through the hills in the northwest two-thirds of the unit. It connects most of the reservoirs. It is also hidden by the terrain.

The unit is apparently natural except for the powerline.

Solitude: The unit averages two and one-half miles in width and six miles in length. The unit offers virtually no vegetative screening and limited topographic screening. The slopes are largely gentle and open. The playas have only ankle high sage. Turnbull Peak is a steep-sided cone of slagrock. The drainages are wide V-shaped draws with little screening. As a result, there is a limited number of secluded areas. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Photographic opportunities are minimal. Sightseeing opportunities are limited to distant views of the Sheepsheads, Stockades, and Saddle Butte. Hiking and horseback riding opportunities are limited because of the small size of the unit. The opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of the powerline. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-110

Unit Name: Bull Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-110 contained 43,540 acres at the conclusion of the initial inventory. The initial inventory maps indicated that private land seperated Units 3-58, 3-100, and 3-126. During the intensive inventory it was discovered that this was not the case. Lands formerly in Units 3-58 and 3-126 are now included in Unit 3-110.

The northwest boundary has been realigned to show the correct location of the road. This reduced the unit acreage by 150 acres. A road was identified along the west boundary. As a result 7,380 acres were deleted from Unit 3-110 and added to Unit 3-111.

The route to Lower Fort Creek Reservoir was found to be a way. It was also learned that the road south of Bogus Creek led into the Bogus Creek Ranch, which was previously identified as an inholding. This moved the boundary around the ranch and an additional 340 acres immediately south of it due to a parallel road that exits the ranch further to the west.

Description

Size: The unit contains 50,510 acres of public land, including 1,840 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. There are eleven private inholdings. Six of them are 40-acre tracts, five in the northern end and one at the southern tip. There are three 120-acre tracts, one in the northern end and two in the unit's center. A 200-acre parcel is also located in the unit's center. A 640-acre tract is located in the north end.

Location: Ten miles northeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by State land by roads and private land on the east, by private land on the south, and by roads and privatre land on the west. A dead-end road leaves the east boundary and follows a diversion ditch to a dam on the river west of the Cutler Ranch, and a second dead-end road extends from the east boundary to the rim above the Owyhee River. A third dead-end road extends from the west boundary below Riggins Creek into a cow camp.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of approximately 30 miles of the Owyhee River and the adjoining rims. The north end includes a portion of the Owyhee Breaks called "The Hole in the Ground." The rims rise up to 1,400 feet above the river. Seven major drainages flow into the Owyhee in the unit. They are Juniper and Black Canyons, Jackson Creek, Fort Creek, Bogus Creek, Bull Creek, Ryegrass Creek, and Mud Creek. Large, rolling hills, such as those in "The Hole in the Ground", are located below the rim at the ends of the major drainages. The vegetation is sagebrush, bunchgrass, an occasional patch of juniper trees along the river, and crested wheatgrass seedings on top of the east rim.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 9,880 acres of crested wheatgrass seedings above the east rim. This vegetation manipulation is substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast and the plowed furrows. The project was planted in 1968.

Approximately nine miles of pipelines with adjacent ways extend through the seeding. They are substantially noticeable because the color and strtaight lines contrast with the surroundings. There are about ten miles of fence in the project area. They are substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast along them. Three reservoirs in this area are substantially noticeable because the dams are not screened fron view flat terrain.

A cabin and corral are located at the end of a dead-end road south of Rye Grass Creek. These are substantially unnoticeable because they are tucked out of view in a small valley.

A worked mine is located on a high point in Chalk Basin, along the west boundary. It is substantially noticeable.

A reservoir above Bull Creek is substantially unnoticeable because it is isolated above the rim.

The Bogus Creek Ranch is not located within the unit boundaries, but it is substantially noticeable from within the Bogus Creek drainage because of the narrowness of the canyon. The ranch sits at the head of the canyon and would be visible to anyone on the north side of the creek.

Bogus Creek reservoir is located further up the creek. Since it is above the rim in a draw, it is hidden from view, and is substantially unnoticeable.

A fence across from the Fort Creek drainage is substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast. The pasture contrast is subject to change with the amount and season of grazing use.

Two reservoirs along the Fort Creek drainage are substantially unnoticeable due to their small size and the screening of the terrain in the drainage bottom. Three reservoirs are located across the river in an area of rolling hills and broken rims. One is in a playa along the unit's boundary. They are substantially unnoticeable because the topography screens them from view.

To the northeast two miles of fence are located above Jackson Hole. The fence is substantially unnoticeable because it is screened by the same topography.

A small dam on the river downstream from Jackson Hole diverts water into a diversion ditch. The ditch parallels the river and takes water to the Cutler Ranch. The dam looks like a small rapid at high water. A small concrete wall at the entrance to the ditch extends into the bank. The ditch is small and is immediately adjacent to the river. The dam and canal are substantially unnoticeable.

Four reservoirs are located along the north border above the rim. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are isolated from the majority of the unit, they are small, and they are situated in shallow draws below a line-of-sight across the flats.

Except for the seeding on the east rim and the mine in Chalk Basin, the unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The majority of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are two portions that do not.

The first is the Bogus Creek drainage above the Bogus Creek Ranch. A rim extends through the center of the area. The half mile above and below the rim are exposed to the unit boundary. The neck of this narrow arm is about one-quarter mile wide, making it impossible to avoid the presence of others while passing the ranch.

The other portion is along the south boundary. It is almost surrounded by private land. A quarter-mile wide neck leads to an area of one square mile. This area is too small to allow one to avoid the presence of others.

The remainder of the unit is shaped like an elongated oval. It is 26 miles long and about five miles wide. There is little vegetative screening in the unit, but there is considerable topographic screening. There are many secluded sites in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, river running, photography, canoeing, kayaking, and sightseeing. All of the opportunities are outstanding because of the variety of terrain in the unit. There is a high degree of challenge on the water and along the canyon. Many attractive sites are located throughout the area.

The previously described section of the Bogus Creek drainage and the isolated area along the south boundary do not offer outstanding recreational opportunities due to their small size and the lack of attractive sites.

Supplemental Values: The canyon offers opportunities for geological and biological study. The unit also has outstanding scenery.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 37,600-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 12,910 acres from further review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics are the 9,880 acres of seedings above the east rim, the ten-acre mined area along the west boundary, and the 640-acre section along the south boundary and the 2,380-acre Bogus Creek drainage that do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 3-111

Unit Name: Saddle Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-111 was 67,460 acres in the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory field work, several parts of the boundaries were determined to be a ways. As a result, the boundaries were moved outward to the next identified roads. Unit 3-111 now contains 5,440 acres formerly in Unit 3-107, 6,780 acres formerly in Unit 3-109, 520 acres from 3-108, and 7,380 acres from Unit 3-110.

Description

Size: The unit contains 87,580 acres of public land, including 4,800 acres of State land presently in the process of being acquired.

Location: This unit is 11 miles north of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the south by BLM roads, to the east by a county road, to the north by private property, a BLM road, and the State Stockade Land Exchange, and to the west by a BLM road and a constructed fenceline road. A dead-end road enters the unit from the east boundary to provide access to an interior horsetrap.

Physical Characteristics: The area is flat country with lava breaks, caves, and lava tubes. Expansive sagebrush flats are interrupted by playas, spring-fed sinks and three drainages. The vegetation is cheatgrass, sage, and bunchgrass. The lava flow extends across the center of the unit, covering one-third of the total acreage. Saddle Butte is not within the unit's boundaries.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a reservoir in the northeast panhandle, along Bull Creek. It is located at the base of a rim, in a draw concealed from view from the surrounding flatlands; it is substantially unnoticeable. Three water guzzlers are scattered throughout the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are small and are easily hidden by the lava mounds.

A substantially unnoticeable horse trap is located near the middle of the unit. It consists only of rockjacks and is substantially unnoticeable.

The former boundary between Units 3-111 and 3-107/3-109 is a way which is hidden even by the short sage and is substantially unnoticeable. As it climbs over low rises the only clue to its presence is a slight color contrast in the vegetation.

The former boundary between Units 3-111 and 3-108 was bladed but is no longer used. This way has fallen into disrepair and vegetation is reclaiming it.

A short dead-end way extends from below Saddle Butte to the guzzler along the north boundary. It is faint enough to be unlocateable on the ground. A slight difference in color of the vegetation is the only evidence visible from an aircraft.

The former northeast boundary is a fire trail cut by a tractor during a 1963 fire on Saddle Butte. It has since seen little use and no maintenance, and is completely overgrown in some places and nearly so along the remainder. As a result, it is substantially unnoticeable.

A final way extends from the west boundary in the northern panhandle to the reservoir along Bull Creek. It is hidden on the flat terrain by sagebrush. It remains substantially unnoticeable.

The unit appears to be generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit's vast size, diverse terrain and triangular shape contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The large number of ravines and hills provide isolated locations which are spread evenly enough to distribute use.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for spelunking, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography and sightseeing. The hiking and riding activities are enhanced by the number of attractions in the unit and the screening provided by the lava flows, which also creates an "alien world" perspective. Caves and lava tubes in the lava flow provide opportunities for spelunking. There are ample subjects to photograph and sightsee.

Supplemental Values: The area contains a geologically young lava flow in a desert environment with salt desert shrub plant communities. Padiocactus Simpson: Robustar, on the Oregon provisional list of endangered and threatened plants, grows in the area. The lava features are typical of extrusive basalt flows, including flow channels, tubes, caves, and dome extrusions. The area also contains many wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 87,580-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprint of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-112

Unit Name: Scott's Butte

Description

Size: The unit contains 46,130 acres, including 2,920 acres of State exchange land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is located immediately north of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the west by Highway 78 and to the south by Highway 95. The southeast is bounded by private property and the northeast by a county road. The northwest is bordered by a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: The area is flat to rolling with lava outcrops. Scott's Butte is the only prominent topographic feature; it rises in the southeast corner. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and bunchgrasses in a salt desert plant community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are about 13 miles of substantially unnoticeable ways screened by topography and vegetation. The only other intrusion is the BLM fire station in the southwest corner. This includes almost two miles of airstrip. The fire station is enclosed by fence. The remainder of the unit appears generally natural.

Solitude: The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It is flat with virtually no vegetative screening. Due to its size, there is an opportunity to find solitude, but it is not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for horseback riding and backpacking in this unit. Neither is outstanding due to lack of challenge, diversity, and interesting features.

Supplemental Values: The area is known primarily for its large wild horse population. The area contains a typical salt desert plant community, which is some of the northernmost salt desert community in the Pacific Northwest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the works of man generally unnoticeable except for the fire station and airstrip at Burns Junction. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-113

Unit Name: Rye Grass

Description

Size: The unit contains 21,300 acres of public land, including 1,120 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is nine miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the west by State Highway 78, to the north by private property and a county road, to the east by a county road, and to the south by a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is rolling to flat. Most of the unit is covered by the Saddle Butte lava flow. The vegetation is cheatgrass, sage, and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one reservoir in the southern tip of the unit. A way penetrates the unit from the northeast corner and another enters from the west side. This western way includes a loop and a couple of deadend branches. The reservoirs and ways are substantially unnoticeable because the mounds of lava screening them from view.

Materials for road construction were quarried along Highway 78. The blade scars and rock piles are substantially noticeable because of the color contrast of the exposed soil. Except for the material sites, the unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: There is virtually no vegetative screening and very little topographic screening in the unit. The lava mounds and flows provide some topographic screening. The unit is eight miles long and four miles wide and is oval shaped. It rises from west to east. This exposes most of the unit to view from the east boundary. The lava flow in this unit does not offer enough screening, isolated locations, or secluded draws to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and photography in the unit. None of them are outstanding because the rocky terrain hampers riding. There is little topographic relief and there are few points of interest.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental values are numerous sheepherder monuments and opportunities to study of the geology of the lava flow.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, except for the material sites. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-114

Unit Name: Palomino Hills

Revision of Unit Boundary: Inventory Unit 3-114 contained 56,300 acres at the end of the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory field work, roads were identified which separate 1,400 acres from the main body of the unit. The 1,400 acres are now included in Unit 2-72.

Description

Size: The unit contains 54,900 acres of public land, including 3,840 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Four miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east by State Highway 78 and the on other sides by BLM roads. In three locations the boundary follows private property for a short distance. A dead-end road penetrates the unit in the southeast corner for approximately two and one-half miles.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain of a lava flow, large rolling hills with occasional small rimrock outcrops open flats, and a deep canyon along Palomino Creek. All the drainages flow east. The north quarter of the unit consists largely of the Saddle Butte lava flow. The east half of the unit slopes down to lava flow on the east. Vegetation is chiefly sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include 14 reservoirs and about 23 miles of ways. They are substantially unnoticeable because the terrain screens them and they are scattered throughout the unit. The unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: The opportunities for solitude are limited primarily to the deep hills in the west half. The east half is open and exposed, with little or no topographic or vegetative screening. The unit is oval shaped, 17 miles long and six miles wide. The portion offering limited solitude is nine miles long and three miles wide. It is too narrow to offer outstanding

opportunities. There are only two drainages through this area, which would focus use in limited locations along them. The hillsides are barren, open, and steep.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and photography in this unit. None are outstanding. The hiking and backpacking opportunities are restricted to drainage bottoms and the lava beds of the north end. Horseback riding is hampered by the steepness of the slopes. Rock climbing is restricted to the rimrock walls of Palomino Creek Canyon, as is the majority of photographic opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental value is that of geologic interest in the Saddle Butte lava flow.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-116

Unit Name: Flattop Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 16,100 acres of public land, including 520 acres of State exchange land in the process of being acquired. There are two parcels of private land totalling 120 acres.

Location: Four miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is surrounded by BLM roads. A portion of the southern boundary is along private property.

Physical Characteristics: Flattop Mountain is a rimrocked mesa located in the southern portion of the unit. The remainder of the terrain is rolling hills. The hills are covered with sagebrush, bunchgrass, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within the unit are two and one-third miles of fence, four miles of ways, and a reservoir. The fence and reservoir are along the west boundary. One way cuts across the north end and another penetrates the unit to Flattop Mountain from the south end. A U.S.G.S. triangulation site with a small monument is located on Flattop Mountain.

All the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills.

Solitude: The unit is oval-shaped, measuring eight miles long and three miles wide. The size and shape of the unit would contribute to opportunities to isolate oneself from others. However, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the lack of secluded locations. The lack of vegetative screening and topographic diversity limit the opportunity for solitude to only a few places.

Recreation: The area offers an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. These opportunities are not outstanding because the unit provides little to no challenge or interest. The area is not scenic. The unit is too small for touring lasting over two days.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-118

Unit Name: Bowden Hills

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory unit 3-118 contains 55,160 acres of public land. It is divided by road into four subunits. Three subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (respectively 120, 80, and 60 acres). None of these three subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-118A

Description

Size: The unit contains 54,900 acres, including 4,200 acres of State exchange land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is nine miles north of Blue Mountain Pass.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north and east by county roads. There is one small private property boundary in the northeast corner. The south is bounded by a BLM road. The west is bounded by a state highway and a county road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is covered with sagebrush, bunchgrass and crested wheatgrass. The terrain is high, rolling hills with some rimrock. Most of the drainages run from the southeast to northwest.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 3,500 acres of seeded crested wheatgrass along the south and east sides. The projects are substantially noticeable because of the straight lined furrows. There are two miles of pipelines in the seeded areas. A well and water tank are located along the north boundary and another well and water tank are located along the east boundary. Both developments are substantially noticeable. A substantially noticeable fenceline and way border the east seeding and run north to the water tower and around it. The contrast along the edge of the seeding causes the fenceline to stand out. There are three reservoirs and one fenceline in the southwest portion of the unit. They are hidden in depressions and are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The hills, gullies and canyons provide numerous opportunities to achieve solitude and the size and square shape of the unit enhance the opportunities. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity to hike, backpack, hunt, horseback ride, cross country ski, snowshoe, photograph, and sightsee in the unit, but none of these are considered outstanding due to a lack of interesting features, diversity and challenge.

Supplemental Values: The area has geologic interest and opporatunities to view scenery outside the unit. Views of the Owyhees, Trout Creeks, Blue Mountain and the Steens are possible.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 50,800-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 4,100 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include 3,500 acres of substantially noticeable seedings along the east and south boundaries and a 600-acre area north of the eastern seeding. That area contains a way, a fenceline, a pipeline, and a water tower and trough, all of which are substantially noticeable. The study area boundary should be drawn around the northern well and tank and along the fenceline way in the east to exclude the seeding and the water tower.

Unit Number: 3-119

Unit Name: Barren Valley

Description

Size: The unit contains 63,120 acres of public land, including 2,480 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. There are 13 parcels of private inholdings totaling 1,120 acres. One 40-acre parcel is administered by the FAA as a communications site.

Location: The unit is twelve miles southwest from Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north by private property, to the east by a state highway, to the south by a county road, to the southwest by some private property and a BLM road, and to the west by a county road.

Physical Characteristics: The area consists of large sagebrush and saltbush flats with very little change in topography. There are some shallow, rolling rises in the southern portion. There are several small playas in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit is apparently natural. A three-mile dead-end road extends into the unit from the southwest corner. Ten miles of ways cut through the corners of the unit. All these roads and ways are substantially unnoticeable due to the flatness of the terrain and the growth of sagebrush screening them. A small, screened, and substantially unnoticeable borrow pit exists in the southeast corner unit. The only substantially noticeable intrusion is the Rome Airport inside the east boundary. The north half of the unit served as a bombing and artillery range during World War II. Although this has had no effect on apparent naturalness, an informed visitor may find evidence of such use or traces of old ordnance.

Solitude: The unit's flat terrain and lack of vegetative screening limit opportunities for solitude. Despite its size and reatively compact shape, all of the unit can be viewed from most of the boundaries. In half of the unit, one can view one boundary from the opposing boundary. Thus, one can view others anywhere in those areas. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and sightseeing. Because of the lack of diversity in the unit, hiking and backpacking opportunities are not outstanding. The only attractions for sightseeing are mountain ranges outside the unit. Horseback

riding would be the best recreation opportunity in the unit, but it is not outstanding because of the lack of diversity and scenery.

Supplemental Values: Archeological sites may be located around playas. The unit is adjacent to an ancient lake.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-120

Unit Name: Clarks Butte

Description

Size: 39,300 acres.

Location: 15 miles west of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south and east by private property and on the north and west by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a lava flow covered by sagebrush and native bunchgrass. Three distinct buttes--Clark, Lava and Saddle--are located in the area. Several playas are scattered throughout the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two portions of the unit do not appear to be generally natural. The northwest section has a 2,000-acre brush control project, three miles of bladed fenceline, one-quarter mile of pipeline, two troughs, three miles of fence, three reservoirs, and six miles of ways. A total of 4,800 acres do not appear to be generally natural because of the cumulative impact of the developments.

The southwest section has four miles of bladed fireline, four miles of fence, four reservoirs, and eight miles of ways. The cumulative effect of these intrusions is that 3,500 acres do not appear to be generally natural.

Throughout the remainder of the unit there are only three small reservoirs and three miles of fence. They are all substantially unnoticeable due to their minor effect on the natural landscape, their wide distribution over the large unit, and topographic screening.

Solitude: The unit's relatively large size, its box-like configuration, and the topographic screening provided by the broken lava fields and buttes provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The undistinguished terrain has few points of interest and little diversity; it does not provide an outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: The lava fields provide an opportunity for scientific study.

Proposed Decision: Designate 31,000 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 8,300 acres from further study.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area appears to be generally natural and offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The area proposed for elimination does not possess wilderness characteristics. It does not appear to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Unit Number: 3-121

Unit Name: Deadman Creek

Description

Size: The unit contains 8,440 acres, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is six miles northwest of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north by a road and private property, to the east and west by roads and to the south by the Stockade State Land Exchange.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the Deadman Creek watershed. A large, rounded hill rises on the south border and rimrock extends west of the hill. The rest of the terrain is rolling hills, some of which are very steep. Vegetation is sagebrush and bunchgrass and numerous scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: The unit contains seven reservoirs and one north-south fence. The fenceline is in the center of the unit. Four of the reservoirs are along the unit's boundaries, two on the east and two on the southwest. The remaining three are in the central portion of the unit. All are substantially unnoticeable due to the diverse terrain and vegetative screening.

Solitude: The opportunity for solitude in this unit is outstanding. The effect of the unit's narrow shape is diminished by the abundant vegetative screening and diverse terrain. Numerous draws, ravines, and wooded ridges provide many camping locations and secluded areas.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, photography, and sightseeing. The touring activities are enhanced by the juniper groves and rolling hills. There is ample water. There are many locations for overnight campsites, and abundant pasture for stock. Opportunities for landscape, wildlife, and botanical photography are offered. The opportunites are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 8,440-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-124

Unit Name: Bogus Rim

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-124 contains 5,680 acres. During the intensive inventory field work, a road was identified which loops into the unit along the south boundary. This created a 20-acre subunit that does not meet any of the size criteria and is not mentioned below.

Subunit Number: 3-124A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 5,660 acres of public land.

Location: The subunit is located 18 miles northeast of Rome.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads. A dead-end road extends into the subunit about one-quarter of a mile.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of subunit is a plateau above the Bogus Creek Rim. The rim is along the west, south, and east boundaries. The north boundary cuts across a plateau sloping towards The Hole in the Ground. Several shallow, intermittent streams drain the table in a radial pattern from the unit's center. A few small hills are located in the center of the unit. The vegetation is of cheatgrass, sagebrush, and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A small reservoir is located near the subunit's center, in a shallow depression. It is below the line-of-sight from the surrounding terrain and is substantially unnoticeable. An access way to the reservoir has been largely overgown and is now substantially unnoticeable.

About two miles of fenceline cross the unit, ending at the rim. One comes up the rim to cross the southwest corner of the table and stops. Due to their short lengths and situation below the rim, they are substantially unnoticeable.

In the northeast corner of the unit, a pipeline and its construction/maintenance road enter the unit and end at a water tower about one-quarter mile into the unit. They are substantially noticeable due to their unnatural linear contrast, the height of the tower, and the scars from their construction. A way extends south from this area into the table and dwindles away as cattle and horse trails. Due to its lack of use and consequent vegetation, it is substantially unnoticeable.

The 1956 Mud Flat brush control project crosses the subunit's boundary along the west side. It covers 400 acres of the slopes below the rim. It is still substantially noticeable due to the vegetation contrast.

Solitude: The unit is roughly egg-shaped, two miles wide by three miles long. There is virtually no vegetative screening. The sagebrush is, at most, waist high. There is enough topographic screening by the surrounding rim to restrict the view across the unit from the boundaries. However, the majority of the unit is a sagebrush flat which offers no topographic screening. Lacking pronounced features, secluded sites, and a large acreage, this unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, horseback riding, hunting and photography in this unit. The unit is too small for extensive touring; the small sage flat can be crossed in two hours on foot. There are no attractive sites. Hunting would be limited by the small carrying capacity and size. Opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of the brush control project the subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-127

Unit Name: Little Crater

Revision of Unit Boundary: The unit contains 20,300 acre. At the end of the initial inventory, the acreage was 17,540 acres (mistakenly reported as 7,040 acres in the report on the initial inventory). During the intensive inventory, a portion of the southern boundary was determined not to be a road. Another road was identified in the unit creating three subunits. Subunits B (2,360 acres) and C (360 acres) are less than 5,000 acres and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-127A

Description

Size: 17,580 acres.

Location: The subunit is located ten miles north of Rome.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by roads with the exception of private property on the south. Deadend roads penetrate the subunit for three miles along the pipeline to Little Crater Reservoir and to an unnamed reservoir along the east boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is a lava flow covered with sagebrush and native grasses. Over 60 percent of the subunit has been treated with either a brush control or crested wheatgrass seeding. West Crater, located in the east central portion of the area, is a prominent feature. Several playas are scattered throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include nine miles of ways, three miles of pipeline, 12 miles of fence, seven reservoirs, and 10,000 acres of brush control and seedings. Given the size and topography of the subunit, the cumulative effect of the developments is a substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit lacks the topographic and vegetative screening and size necessary to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for recreation because it lacks diversity, challenge, and interesting features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It also does not offer outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Name: Jordan Craters

Unit Number: 3-128

Revision of Unit Boundary: The unit contains 30,430 acres. At the conclusion of the initial inventory, the reported acreage was 23,500 acres. The acreage increased because it was determined during the intensive inventory that a portion of the western boundary is a way. The eastern boundary was incorrectly identified in the initial inventory and was moved to the edge of a block of State land. Four roads within the unit were

identified in the initial inventory, creating six subunits. Subunits B through F are less than 5,000 acres (920, 640, 200, 120, and 50 acres, respectively) and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. They are not described below. Uppper and Lower Cow Lakes are under State jurisdiction and are excluded from the unit.

Subunit Number: 3-128A

Description.

Size: The subunit contains 28,500 acres of public land. An 80-acre parcel and a 120-acre parcel of private property are located within the subunit.

Location: 15 miles northwest of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded primarily by State and private land on the east and roads on the remainder. A two-mile dead-end road ends at Crater Lake. Two other roads, each less than a mile long, dead-end at Lava Well and Coffeepot Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: Over two-thirds of the subunit is a young lava flow with little noticeable vegetation. The lava flow blocked natural drainages and created a series of small ponds and lakes. Unique riparian vegetation is found adjacent to these water holes and also in some of the collapsed lava tubes. The remainder of the unit, lying mostly to the west of the lava field, consists of flat to rolling topography with a few ridges and buttes. This area is composed of an older lava flow with more developed soils; it has a sagebrush and native bunchgrass vegetative cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments within the subunit include two reservoirs (Coffeeport and Lava), three wells (Lava, Crater Lake and Lodge), two cabins, five miles of fence and two miles of ways.

All of the reservoirs, wells and cabins are located immediately adjacent to the boundary or at the termination of a dead-end road. They are readily visible to a person entering the area at that site. The two miles of ways and five miles of fence are substantially unnoticeable. They are partially screened, blend into the surrounding landscape, and represent only a minor impact.

Solitude: With the exception of a narrow finger on the northeast portion, the shape and size of the subunit contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The broken topography provides ample opportunity for seclusion and isolation. There is very little vegetative screening. The narrow (one-quarter mile wide) finger does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Many primitive recreational opportunities exist in the subunit. Some of them include nature study, bird watching, hiking, photography, hunting, sightseeing and camping. Due to the unique lava formations, ponds and lakes, botanical and zoological features, opportunities for several of the activities are outstanding by themselves. The opportuniites are particularly outstanding when the variety of possible activities is considered. However, the narrow finger in the south portion is too narrow, small, and isolated from the remainder of the area to offer truly outstanding primitive recreational opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The Jordan Craters are designated as a Research Natural Area and possess many supplemental values. These include unique gelogical, botanical, and zoological features.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of approximately 28,000 acres. Eliminate 500 acres lacking wilderness charateristics. This includes several intrusions adjacent to the boundary and a narrow finger in the southeast corner.

Rationale: The intrusions do not appear to be generally natural. The narrow finger does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or recreation. The remainder of the subunit possesses wilderness characteristics. It appears to be generally natural and it offers both outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Unit Number: 3-130

Unit Name: Whitehorse Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 25,420 acres. It contained 14,120 acres at the conclusion of the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory, a portion of the northern boundary was determined to be a way and the remainder was found to be non-existent. As a result, unit 3-138 was merged with 3-130, adding 10,720 acres to 3-130. The northeast boundary was found to be inaccurately mapped, adding another 580 acres. The unit contains a number of roads, dividing it into five subunits. Subunits 130B, C, D, and E do not meet any of the size criteria (200, 160, 140, and 60 acres, respectively) and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-130A

Description:

Size: The unit contains 24,860 acres of public land.

Location: The unit is 23 miles southwest of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a road to the north, BLM roads to the south and west and BLM and county roads to the east. Four dead-end roads penetrate the unit from the west side, two for three miles each and two for only a one-quarter mile each.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains low east-west oriented hills and ridgelines; they are steep-sided on the north side and sloping on the south. Whitehorse Butte is in the southeast corner, rising 200 feet to an elevation of 5,051 feet. An area known as Mud Flat is in the northeast corner. This is a sparsely vegetated flood plain. Mud Flat Creek, starts around Whitehorse Butte, flows through Mud Flat, and exits at the north end of the unit. A creek flows west from the unit's center through Indian Canyon, a shallow two-miles long rim. The unit's vegetation is sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 37 miles of ways within the unit. Each way is substantially unnoticeable by itself because of the topographic screening and sagebrush cover. Collectively, they are substantially noticeable because of their large number. They occur in all the major drainages and some across the flats and ridges.

The same situation exists with the reservoirs and other water developments. There are 20 reservoirs, a five-mile diversion ditch, and four miles of pipeline. Each of the reservoirs is in a small valley. They are evenly scattered throughout the unit with the exception of the south end, which only has three. Along the north boundary is the Jaca Reservoir, in the north end, covers about 140 acres. Because the dam is adjacent to the boundary road, it is substantially unnoticeable. The water body appears to be a lake. The pipeline is near the reservoir. It was bladed upon construction and is substantially noticeable because it climbs up two small rises, one above the other, in the northeast corner of the unit. The diversion ditch is a 12 to 15-foot wide, winding canal that connects two reservoirs. It diverts water from one side of a ridgeto another ridge about four miles away. It runs south to north through the center of the unit. Its cuts, fills, and banks are substantially noticeable.

There are approximately 27 miles of fences throughout the unit, dividing it into ten pastures. The major east-west fenceline was originally bladed but the scars have largely revegetated. The fencelines are substantially noticeable because of the large number and the pasture contrast on either side resulting from the intensive rangeland management. Depending upon the grazing system, this pasture contrast varies and may eventually disappear.

Most of the southern half of the unit was sprayed in a brush control project in 1962. It still contrasts sharply with the adjacent unsprayed vegetation. It remains substantially noticeable. The treatment covers approximately 6,100 acres.

Due north of this brush treatment is the 1964 Indian Canyon seeding. The brush sprayed and 1,360 acres were seeded with crested wheatgrass. The pasture contrast is still substantially noticeable.

The 1969 Rim Basin Seeding is located in the northeast corner. One thousand acres were plowed and seeded. The furrows and rows of non-native grasses are still visible. It is substantially noticeable.

Because of the cumulative effect of the projects, the unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. The developments are substantially noticeable, and the area is not affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit is a moderate-sized, elongated area. The terrain is flat to generally rolling, and the vegetation is low. The low parallel ridgelines offer some degree of isolation, but it is not outstanding because the valleys are wide, shallow and without vegetative screening, denying persons the chance to escape the sight of others. There are few secluded, natural sites because of the number of intrusions. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and photography. Hiking and riding would be enjoyable in the rolling hills, ridges, and drainages. It would not be outstanding, however, because of the limited number of sites where the recreationist could avoid the many projects im the area. Fishing and hunting are limited because there is little fish and game. Photography is not outstanding because there are no unique subjects. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental values are scenic views off the unit. These include glimpses of the Owyhee Canyon and the Owyhee Range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.
Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural. The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-132
Unit Name: Parsnip Peak
Revision of Unit Boundary: The unit contains 22,000 acres. During the intensive inventory a road was identified in the southern portion forming Subunits A and B. Subunit B is 400 acres; it does not meet the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-132A
Description
Size: The subunit contains 21,600 acres of public land. Within the subunit is a 160-acre parcel of private property.
Location: The subunit is located 5 miles south of Jordan Valley.
Boundaries: Private property forms most of the east boundary and a small portion of the west boundary. The remainder is bounded by roads. Two interior dead-end pipeline roads penetrate the west boundary for approximately two miles.
Physical Characteristics: Parship Peak rise to an elevation of 6128 feet and dominates the terrain. It is located in the north half of the subunit and is surrounded by rounded, gently rolling hills and ridges. The south half of the subunit is more dissected and broken by shaper ridges, numerous ravines, and some rimrock. The vegetation is of sagebrush, pockets of bitterbrush, an occasional isolated juniper tree, and native bunch grasses.
Wilderness Criteria.
Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.
Naturalness: The north portion of the subunit contains two reservoirs, one developed spring, one mile of buried pipeline and a parallel road, nine miles of fence and eight miles of ways. Due to the open, gently rolling slopes and the absence of screening, the cumulative impact of the intrusions on 5,760 acres is substantially noticeable.
A concentration of developments are located in an area of 640 acres north of the Carzacorta Ranch and near the middle of the west boundary. They include one mile of pipeline and parallel road, two and one-half miles of fence with parallel maintenance ways and an additional mile of ways. The cumulative impact of these intrusions is substantially noticeable.
Developments in the remainder of the subunit include eight miles of fence, 12 miles of ways, and Toppin Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is fairly large and stands out. The fences and ways are substantially unnoticeable blending into the natural landscape or are screened by the topography.
Solitude: North of a narrow neck in the middle of the subunit is an area of 4,800 acres which does not possess outstanding solitude. The slopes are gently rolling, open hillsides with a majority of the area in view of the county road forming the west boundary. The south half of the subunit offers outstanding opportunities because the diverse relief provides many secluded locations.

Recreation: The major activity in the area is deer hunting. Opportunities are not outstanding because of the open slopes and lack of vegetative cover. Hiking, camping and sightseeing opportunities are available but are not outstanding. There are no unique or interesting attractions in the subunit.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include good populations of sage grouse and a view of the Owyhee Mountains.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,800 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate Toppin Creek Reservoir and 11,200 acres in the north half of the subunit because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The 10,800-acre area possessing wilderness characteristics appears to be generally natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The two intruded areas in the north half of the unit and the Toppin Creek Reservoir contain substantially noticeable intrusions; the imprint of man's work is obvious. The narrow portion between the unnatural areas does not offer outstanding solitude.

Unit Number: 3-143

Unit Name: Owyhee River

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 53,250 acres. It contained 29,120 acres at the conclusion of the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory, it was determined that the boundary between Units 3-143 and 3-176 is not a road. Therefore, the 21,540 acres in Unit 3-176 were included in Unit 3-143. The south and northwest boundaries of 3-176 were determined to not be roads, adding 2,560 and 340 acres, respectively. Several minor errors in the mapping of the boundaries resulted in a reduction of the unit area by 310 acres.

Roads and private property divide the unit into five subunits. Subunit B (1200 acres) is the extreme northern tip of the original unit. Subunit C (680 acres) and D (300 acres) are immediately south of B. Subunit E (20 acres) is along the northeast boundary. Subunits B, C, D, and E do not meet any of the size requirements and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-143A

Description

Size: 51,050 acres.

Location: Along the Owyhee River, southeast of Rome.

Boundaries: The north tip of the unit is bounded by private property and roads. The east boundary is a combination of BLM roads, state land, and private land. In the Mud Flat area, across from Rim Rock Reservoir, a short dead-end road penetrates to a scenic overlook. From Long Canyon Reservoir to Three Forks the boundary is a county road. South of here the unit is bounded by private and state land. A BLM road climbs out of Five Bar of the Owyhee River at the south end of the unit. It joins another road which forms the south and southwest boundary. Private land forms the boundary in Antelope Canyon. From Five Points north, along the west side of the canyon, roads define the boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains about 40 to 45 miles of the Owyhee River and its canyon. The canyon contains 1300-foot walls, breaks, and rims. Antelope Creek, a major side canyon, enters the Owyhee in the south end of the unit. Antelope Creek is fed by Twin Springs Gorge. Additional tributary canyons along the Owyhee include Warm Springs Canyon, Long Canyon, and Indian Canyon.

The river has numerous rapids, ranging from class two through six, which slice through vertical canyon walls. The walls are a pinkish-brown rhyolite; they include tall pinnacles and chimneys. The floor of the canyon varies from wide, sandy bars to narrow, wall-to-wall rock-strewn rapids.

The north two-thirds of the unit contain sagebrush flats above the rim. The south third, around Antelope Creek, contains rolling hills and drainages. Along this upper portion of the Owyhee the canyon forms some stairstepped rims and basins.

The vegetation is sagebrush, bunchgrass, and occasional junipers in the canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Five reservoirs are spaced evenly above the length of the southern rim of Antelope Creek. A sixth is midway along the north side. All are substantially unnoticeable because they are in shallow draws below the level of the sagebrush flats surrounding them (four are near the edge of the rim) and therefore out of sight.

Hansen Canyon, Juniper Lake, and Porcupine Reservoirs are located along the western boundary above the rim and south of Loveland Horse Camp. A fourth reservoir is located in the camp. The three are substantially unnoticeable because they have shallow dams in shallow drainages (the Hansen Canyon reservoir is below rimrock) and are effectively hidden from view across the sagebrush flats. The reservoir at the camp is noticeable because it is close to the boundary and the cabin, fences, ways, and corrals in and around the camp. The cumulative impact of the developments at the is substantially noticeable.

Two old range improvement projects are located between Three Forks and Indian Canyon. The 1964 Indian Canyon brush control and seeding and the 1961 Whitehorse brush control were aerial applications. Both are substantially unnoticeable because the projects were only marginally effective.

Three reservoirs in Long Canyon and the plateau to the south are substantially noticeable because of their proximity to the boundary and to each other. Just to the south, along the boundary road that descends to Three Forks, a cabin and the adjacent corrals and parking areas are substantially noticeable.

An old mine is located at the mouth of Long Canyon. It is off the edge of the rim, not far from the river. It is substantially unnoticeable because it is in disrepair and vegetation is growing on it. The old tailings pile is situated such that it appears to be a talus slope.

Two old shelters are located about two miles down the river. They are substantially unnoticeable because of they are small and constructed of natural materials.

Three reservoirs are located within a mile of each other in Indian Canyon. Access ways lead to the reservoirs and a fence passes among them.The

cumulative effect of the developments in the 760-acre area is substantially noticeable because of their number, proximity, and location along a wall of rimrock.

A fourth reservoir is located another mile north. It is adjacent to the rim, away from the boundary, and in a shallow draw. It is hidden from view across the adjacent flats and substantially unnoticeable.

Dairy Pasture and Eiguiren Reservoirs are located across the river. Dairy Pasture is halfway between the boundary road and the rim, hidden from the boundary by low hills. It is substantially unnoticeable. Eiguren Reservoir is adjacent to the west boundary in a basin. It is substantially noticeable.

Two reservoirs, both known as the Skull Creek Rim Reservoirs, three miles to the north along the west boundary. Scott's Reservoir is located two miles north of them. All three are adjacent to the boundary. The Skull Creek Reservoirs are connected by a series of ways. All three are substantially noticeable within a 120-acre area because of the cumulative effects of the numerous ways and the reservoirs' proximity to the boundary and each other.

Three other reservoirs are located along the west side of the river. They are small, are closer to the rim than the boundary, separated from each other, and are in shallow draws. They are substantially unnoticeable.

A reservoir and an access way are located along the state land that forms the northeast boundary. Because it is closey to the boundary, the visibility of the access way, and the relative flatness of the terrain, it is substantially noticeable.

A pipeline and accompanying construction-maintenance ways, a fence, a reservoir, a water tower, and the 1967 Field Fire brush control and seeding project are located further north. The cumulative effect of the developments in this 1,100-acres area is substantially noticeable because of the contrast in the vegetation in the various pastures, the undulating terrain which brings ways into view, and the obvious marks left from the construction of the pipeline.

The abandoned Scott's Ranch is located at the north end of the subunit. It contains a reservoir, corral, cabin, and fences. Several ways are located adjacent to it. One descends to cott's Diversion Dam. This dam is lined with rip-rap. It backs up the river to fill a diversion ditch. The ditch, and a way on its bank, parallel the river. The developments are located in a 260-acre area adjacent to the boundary. They are substantially noticeable.

Twenty-two miles of fence extend through the unit. The longest stretches for six miles. Most are substantially unnoticeable because of their short lengths, the distances sepaparting them, and, in some cases, construction of native materials and screening by tall sage. An exception is the fenceline along the northeast boundary. A brush control and seeding project on one side creates a noticeable pasture contrast.

The area contains approximately 65 miles of ways. The longest is about eight miles. Most of the others are short, extending from the boundary to the rim along the river. The substantially noticeable ways were mentioned earlier. The remainder are hidden by sage in the flat terrain or are located in shallow drainages along the creekbeds. They are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Five portions of this subunit do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The northern tip of the unit below Scott's Diversion Dam is only one-half to one-quarater mile wide. The river flows through the tip. The developments mentioned earlier are located in low rolling hills on one side of the river. The other side is a sheer wall with the boundary road immediately at its top. The area contains 560 acres, including the 260 acres of substantailly noticeable developments mentioned earlier.

North of Soldier Creek, the State land and road boundary form a 1,840-acre narrow neck in open, flat, terrain. The widest part of this area is one mile.

The 760-acre area around Indian Creek was mentioned earlier. The road boundary lies near the base of the Indian Canyon rim. The reservoirs and ways are at the foot of the rim. A small sage flat dips down to the creek between the road boundary and the developments. The area is entirely open and exposed.

Further south is Long Canyon, with a rim on the south side. A 1,560-acre flat lies above the rim and is encircled by the subunit boundary. It is one and one-half mile across. There is no topographic or vegetative screening.

The fifth portion lacking solitude is at the southwest corner above Antelope Corrals. Here the subunit boundary forms a small, 340-acre point that is one mile across at its base and a mile in length. It is an open, exposed sage flat that offers no opportunity to avoid the sight of others.

The rest of the unit includes the winding canyon of the Owyhee River. Within the unit, the canyon has walls up to 1,300 feet tall, is forty-seven miles long, is from one to four miles wide, and is accessable in many places only by raft or by rock climbing. The opportunity for solitude is outstanding.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, rock climbing, river running, kayaking, photography, and sightseeing. These opportunities, especially the water related activities, are outstanding. The Owyhee offers an outstanding river rafting experience because of the spectacular scenery and high challenge. Many attractive locations along the river are secluded and pristine.

The five areas lacking solitude also do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The southern four are open, small sage flats that offer no attractive sites and are too small to offer unconfined recreation. There is no degree of challenge. The northernmost tip of the unit is a tall rim wall on one side of the river and a developed, low riverbank on the other. There are no outstanding opportunities in this portion.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains chukar, deer, waterfowl and fish. The canyon offers geological educational opportunities. It is highly scenic. Cultural and historic sites may be located along the river.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 44,760-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 6,290 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include 560 acres in the northern tip, of which 260 do not appear natural and the remainder does not offer outstanding solitude or

recreation; the 1,100-acre seeded and developed area along the northeast boundary; 1,840 acres in a narrow neck along the northeast boundary which do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation; 760 acres along Indian Creek which offer no solitude or primitive recreation and have three substantially noticeable reservoirs; a 1,560-acre flat above Long Canyon that offers no solitude or recreational opportunities; a 340-acre point in the southwestern corner that offers no solitude or recreational opportunities; and approximately 130 acres of reservoirs, cabins, and ways along the subunit's boundaries that are substantially noticeable.

Unit Number: 3-144

Unit Name: Hardin

Description

Size: 21,200 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: Except for a small parcel of private property in the northeast portion of the unit, the unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is mainly a large sagebrush flat. The vegetation is less than three feet high and there is little topographic relief. The extreme northern portion of the unit includes a short segment of the Dry Creek drainage, it is bordered by a prominant rock rim. Several small playas dot the sagebrush flat.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately ten miles of fence crisscross the unit. Winter Range Well is located on the west boundary. Both are substantially unnoticeable. A substantially unnoticeable way enters the unit in the northeast and follows a fenceline for approximately three miles. All these intrusions are either screened or create only a minor disturbance.

A crested wheatgrass seeding of over 3,000 acres along Dry Creek is substantially noticeable below the southern rim of the drainage. A buried pipeline extends approximately one mile into the seeding. Hardin Reservoir and the fence surrounding it are substantially noticeable from below the rim. All of these intrusions are screened and not noticeable from the large flat above the rim. The only noticeable intrusion above the rim is a rock pile or sheepherder's monument.

Solitude: The unit offers a poor opportunity to find solitude because of the lack of topographic and vegetative screening. Although the unit is moderately sized and fairly well shaped, these factors are not substantial enough to overcome the lack of screening. Users could not avoid thea presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: The area offers little diversity and few challenges. There are no unique or attractive features in the unit with the possible exception of Hardin Reservoir.

Supplemental Values: The wild horse population throughout the unit and the bull frog habitat at Hardin Reservoir are the only known supplemental values known in the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Above the rim and to the south of Dry Creek, the unit appears to be generally natural. However, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-145

Unit Name: Winter Range

Description

Size: The unit contains 86,000 acres of public land, including approximately 500 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. A 320-acre parcel of private property is located near the center of the unit.

Location: Eight miles southeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads except for two parcels of private property along the western boundary. Seven dead-end roads enter the unit from various locations; their total length is approximately 20 miles.

Physical Characteristics: Most of the unit is a sagebrush flat. Jackies Butte is the only prominant point within the unit. Several small playas are scattered through the unit. Dry Creek Canyon forms a three mile gorge in the southcentral portion. Sagebrush, native grasses and crested wheatgrass are the dominant vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments in the unit include 44 miles of fence, 22 miles of ways, 18 miles of bladed fenceline, nine miles of pipeline, three reservoirs, a horse trap and 15,000 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. The cumulative impact from these intrusions is substantially noticeable. They are spread through most of the unit and dominate the natural landscape. The central portion of the unit, which contains a deadend road, is the least disturbed area.

Solitude: The only portion of the unit possessing any degree of naturalness is narrow and lacks vegetative and topographic screening. There is no outstanding opportunity for solitude in this or any other portion of the unit.

Recreation: The entire unit lacks topographic diversity, interesting points, and challenging features. There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains a large wild horse population and abundant lava rock.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit lacks naturalness, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-146

Unit Name: Indian Fort

Revision of Unit Boundary: The unit contains 27,500 acres. During the intensive inventory several roads were identified, creating five subunits. The southern boundary was also realigned to correct minor mapping errors and to more accurately depict its true location. Subunits B through E are less than 5,000 acres (B-2,400 acres ; C-1,400 acres; D-1,300 acres; and E-500 acres). They do not meet any of the minimum size criteria and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-146A

Description

Size: 21,900 acres.

Location: One-half mile south of Rome.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads except for private property in the northwest.

Physical Characteristics: Rolling hills and sagebrush flats are the dominant features. Fort Creek is a minor drainage located in the central portion. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush, native bunchgrass and crested wheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions in the subunit include six miles of pipeline, 2,500 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, a reservoir, five miles of ways, four miles of bladed fireline, and eight miles of fence. Because of the large number of developments, their wide distribution, high visibility, and the lack of topographic screening, their cumulative effect is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and a narrow irregular shape.

Recreation: There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The subunit lacks diversity, challenge, and unique or interesting features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit lacks wilderness characteristics. It does not appear to be generally natural and does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-148

Unit Name: Big Grassy Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundary: The unit was believed to contain 26,500 acres during the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory a portion of the southwestern boundary was realigned to correct minor mapping errors and to more accurately depict its true location. This added 1,200 acres to the unit.

Description

Size: 27,700 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Rome.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by roads. Two roads penetrate the unit for three miles, dead-ending at Mustang Reservoir and Indian Fort Flat.

Physical Characteristics: Big Grassy Mountain, located in the center of the unit, tapers off in all directions into rolling hills with some rimrock. Minor drainages include Indian Fort Creek, Dry Creek, and Upper Carbin Creek. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, bunchgrass and crested wheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include 16 miles of ways, 11 reservoirs, 13 miles of fence 6,000 acres of crested wheatgrass seedings, two miles of irrigation canal and six miles of bladed fireline. The fences create only minor impacts and tend to blend into the background. The ways are mostly screened from view by rimrock and rolling topography and by sagebrush on the flats. Most of the reservoirs are small and hidden in depressions. All of these intrusions are substantially unnoticeable.

Mustang Reservoir, located in the southwestern portion of the unit, is larger than the other reservoirs in the unit and has high, visible banks. The six miles of bladed fireline are also very noticeable due to the cuts and the soil-vegetation color contrast. The irrigation canal's constructed banks stand out from a considerable distance. The seedings, with their distinct rows and unnatural shapes, are also substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is moderately sized and has a compact shape. However, visitors would find it difficult to avoid the presence of others because of the lack of vegetative screening and the limited amount of topographic screening.

Recreation: Game populations are moderate to low, sightseeing opportunities are limited, and there are no outstanding features to which to walk. There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the unit.

Supplemental Values: Grassy Mountain Crater may be geologically significant.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. There are no outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. In addition, a portion of the unit does not appear to be generally natural.

Unit Number: 3-149

Unit Name: Hanson Canyon

Description

Size: 15,960 acres.

Location: Four miles west of Three Forks of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads. One road enters the unit and dead-ends at Squaw Flat Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: There is one rise in the north corner of the unit. Immediately to the south of it is a low, east-west rim. Three creeks in the unit are separated by rolling hills. The hills are covered with sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A fenceline parallels the southwest boundary. It is substantially unnoticeable because of the rolling terrain. Six miles of ways are also substantially unnoticeable because they are obscured from view by the terrain and overgrown with sagebrush. They are screened from view unless observed along their length.

Reservoirs are located in the north corner, one in the east corner, midway along the northwest boundary, and southwest of the unit's center. All four are substantially unnoticeable because they are hidden between the rolling hills or at the bottom of the rim.

Solitude: The low rolling hills and the unit's shape provide a limited opportunity for solitude, but the opportunity is not outstanding because the shallows between the hills are open and contain little screening. Users would find it difficult to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and photography. They are not outstanding. There are no particularly interesting or unique sights and destination points. The unit can be crossed in less than three hours on foot. There are no major drainages to explore.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-152

Unit Name: Whitehorse Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the ninety-day public comment period following the announcement of the proposed decisions on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of 30 selected areas in southeastern Oregon, field investigation of comments revealed that a portion of the northwestern boundary was not a road. As a result, Subunit 3-199A was added to 3-152, increasing the total acreage by 12,360 acres.

Description

Size: The unit contains 42,320 acres, which includes 1,640 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. There are 16 parcels of private property within the unit totalling 840 acres.

Location: 8 miles south of Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south and west by BLM roads, private property and a county road; on the east by BLM roads and private property, and to the north by another road. A dead-end road penetrates from the northern central boundary for four miles and another from the northwestern boundary for three miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of steep rimrocked canyons with rounded ridges and plateaus between them, forming the headwaters of Willow and Whitehorse Creeks. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, mountain mahogany, aspen, and bunchgrass. The unit also consists of the northern foothills of the Trout Creek Mountains. Parallel ridges and drainages turn into rolling hills dissected by small canyons and breaks. Willow Butte and a small neighboring tabletop are situated at the base of the foothills. The vegetaion is predominately sagebrush and range grasses with riparian vegetation along Willow Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 32 miles of fence in the unit, generally near the perimeter. The northwest corner contains the majority of the fence lines. The area west of Willow Butte is divided into six pastures. Throughout this area there is a high frequency of contact with the fencelines

resulting in them becoming substantially noticeable. The terrain in this area does not effectively hide the fences as they rise up the slopes of the undulating hills. One of these fence lines heads due south from this area and parallels the western boundary. Along the boundary it is substantialy noticeable. From the Horseshoe Corral south it heads away from the boundary and becomes hidden by the terrain and vegetative screening.

The northwest corner also contains six reservoirs and three spring developments. Most of these are within a mile from one another. One is large and severely trampled. All are alongside either roads or ways. Their proximity to one another and the access routes provide a high frequency of contact. The moderate terrain diversity does not compensate for this continual recurrance. Thus, they become substantally noticeable. Another reservoir is in the southwest corner. It is on a ridge shared by the boundary road. The road circles around it and there is an access route to it. The terrain is such that the reservoir is in a shallow depression along the ridge, which focuses visual attention towards it from the surrounding slopes. Thus, it is also substantially noticeable.

There is an airstrip in the western most point of the unit. It is immediately off the road and is surrounded by ways and fences. It rests on a low elongated hill that is visible from the surrounding area, exhibits blade scars. and is substantially noticeable. There are two seedings in the unit. One is in the northeast portion of the unit. It is a 160-acre segment of a much larger seeding area east of the boundary road. The irregular shaped seeding sharply contrasts with the adjacent sagebrush and is substantially noticeable. South of Willow Butte to the western boundary is a 3,460-acre seeding that was not successful. It has largely overgrown and is now substantially unnoticeable. In the north central portion of the unit are two old buildings in a state of ruin. A third is found along the northern dead-end road. Their effect is more pastoral than obtrusive. An old corral, of wood and wire, exists in this area, a mile and a half from the Smith Spring Reservoirs. These intrusions, of natural materials, do not provide a stark color contrast, nor are they large. Consequently, they are substantially unnoticeable.

There are 31 miles of ways within this unit, seventeen of which are in the northwestern corner. One way cuts the unit through its length. Due to terrain, it is substantially unnoticeable. Several other short ways penetrate the unit in different places from the boundary but end in less than a mile. The remainder, cramped together below the northern slopes of Trout Creeks, provide a high frequency of contact, are often visible across the rolling hills, and show a fair degree of use. As a result, they are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of several parallel deep drainages with riparian habitat and wooded groves within them and on the hillsides, most of the area offers plenty of locations to achieve solitude. The unit's square shape and large size contribute to an outstanding opportunity to avoid others. However, the northwestern corner of the unit does not offer a high degree of topographic diversity. Here the terrain is of only rolling hills and a couple of draws. Willow Butte does not offer screening because it is near the boundary with only a sagebrush flat behind it. Much of this area is in full view of the unit's boundary, which hinders the opportunity to escape the sight of others.

In addition, a small portion of the western boundary (180 acres) does not offer any degree of solitude because it is a small, narrow strip of sagebrush on the ridgetop between the boundary road and the adjacent substantially noticeable fenceline.

Recreation: There are excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography, bird watching, and sight-seeing. Because of the diversity of available activities, the challenging terrain, the large size (which provides extensive touring possibilities), and the numerous natural, secluded sites, the opportunity for primitive recreation within most of the unit is considered outstanding. However, the northwestern corner of the unit does not offer such an opportunity because of the limited challenging terrain, lack of unusual or interesting features, lack of natural, secluded campsites, and few recreational opportunites. This also applies to the portion along the west boundary between the fence and the road.

Supplemental Values: The most outstanding supplemental value of the area is zoological. Willow Creek is known to contain a species of trout, the Alvord cutthroat, that occurs only in these drainages flowing out of the Trout Creek Mountains. The portion of Willow Creek that is in this unit is where these fish occur. This is largely because of beaver activity, which has taken advantage of the willow grove along the creek. The willow grove is a significant ecosystem for this area. Geologically, it offers the Willow Creek breaks, several steep sided ravines and two canyons for study. Sedimentary layers contain the eroded deposits derived from the Trout Creeks, back during a time when the Alvord Desert was a great lake. Scenic vistas from the area include the Steens, the Trout Creeks, Flagstaff and Whitehorse Buttes, and the Alvord Desert. Historically, the road in the north central area is a 100-year-old route to the old homestead site, of which 3 foundations and walls remain. The west boundary is the old stage route from Boise, Idaho to Chico, California. The educational and scientific values are greatest for the study of the ecosystems along Whitehorse and Willow Creeks.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 27,350-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 14,970 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include the 160-acre seeding, the reservoir in the southwestern corner (approximately 10 acres), the 14,260-acre northwestern corner that is adversely affected by substantially noticeable works of man, and which also fails to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and the 180 acres along the west boundary that do not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-153/2-78D/NV-020-859

Unit Name: Disaster Peak

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with Inventory Unit NV-020-859 in the Winnemucca District, Nevada, which is in turn contiguous with Inventory Subunit 2-78D in the Burns District, Oregon. The entire interstate unit contains 25,840 acres, 3-153 has 13,420 acres, NV-020-859 has 9,700 acres and 2-78D has 2,720 acres. A joint inventory of the area was conducted and the description and proposed decision which follow apply to the entire unit.

Description

Size: 25,840 acres of public land. There are three 40-acre inholdings of private land.

Location: Approximately 18 miles south of Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries : BLM roads form most of the boundaries. In some areas there is a combination of private property with a road. There are three deadend roads running into the unit, with a combined length of about five miles.

Physical Characteristics: This unit covers the area to the west and north of Disaster Peak. The portion in the Vale District consists of steep, rugged terrain with deeply incised drainages and a variety of vegetation, including juniper, aspen and willow. Going south into Nevada the terrain flattens out onto a high plateau with sheer rimrock. Vegetation is more sparse, consisting almost entirely of sagebrush and low shrubs. The portion in the Burns District also contains part of the deeply incised Kings River drainage. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush, but there is some aspen on the higher elevations and some willow in the valley bottoms.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit satisfies the minimum size criterion.

Naturalness: There are numerous water developments at spring sites and reservoirs scattered throughout the unit. All the developed reservoirs are in Oregon along the periphery of the unit where they are not disruptive of the naturalness of the area as a whole. There are some minor ways and short segments of fenceline, but none of them are particularly noticeable. The area is primarily natural and the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The diverse topography and vegetation provide ample natural screening for the unit to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The diverse and challenging topography, natural screening, availability of water, scenic values, and significant points of interest combine to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: Geological features are the only ones that have been identified.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 25,840 acre wilderness study area, with 13,420 acres in Unit 3-153, 9,700 acres in Unit NV-020-859, and 2,720 acres in Subunit 2-78D.

Rationale: The unit appears to be essentially natural and it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 3-157

Unit Name: Oregon Canyon

Revision of Unit Boundary: After the final initial inventory unit 3-157 contained 21,000 acres. During the intensive inventory, it was determined that the boundary between 3-157 and 3-203 is not a road. The western and eastern portions are ways, and the center portion does not exist. The two units are combined to form one unit.

Description

Size: The unit contains 65,600 acres, including 2,240 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Ten miles northwest of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a combination of private property and roads on the east, and roads on the north and west. The south boundary was established in the initial inventory to eliminate land in which the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is the southeast corner of the Trout Creek Mountains. The topography is diverse. The dramatic deeply incised Oregon Canyon runs north and south through the center of the unit. A high ridgeline and precipitous escarpment fall off to an undulating alluvial fan east of Oregon Canyon. A gently rolling ridge lies west of Oregon Canyon. The terrain breaks off to the south into a highly dissected pattern of many canyons and ridges. There are many prominent rims, creeks, and ravines in the unit. The vegetation consists of aspen pockets, mahogany thickets, willows and associated riparian vegetation along the creek, sagebrush, and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The east portion of the unit contains approximately 30 miles of fence, 20 miles of pipeline, six miles of transmission line, seven developed springs, two reservoirs, a 12,000-acre crested wheatgrass seeding and 20 miles of roads and ways. Individually and collectively, these intrusions are substantially noticeable. This portion of the unit, east of the fenceline forming the boundary of the seeding, does not appear to be generally natural.

The north portion of the unit contains seven miles of fence, two miles of pipeline, a 40-acre brush control project and three miles of roads and ways.

The remainder of the unit contains 12 miles of fence, a 600-acre brush control project and eight miles of ways. Brush has reinvaded the brush control project area to the point where the project is not distinguishable. The ways are screened by the topography and vegetation, and the fence causes only a minor impact.

Solitude: The extreme north and southeast portions of the unit are isolated fingers jutting out from the body of the unit. They are narrow and lack vegetative and topographic screening.

The remainder of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the diverse topography, pockets of vegetative screening, and the relatively large size of the unit.

Recreation: The topography is both challenging and diverse. Numerous springs and the creek in Oregon Canyon provide abundant water. Scattered pockets of vegetation provide shelter. Many points of interest

exist. Abundant wildlife provide excellent viewing and hunting opportunities. Photography, hiking, backpacking, camping and sightseeing opportunities are also outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include interesting geologic canyon formations, spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife and important riparian habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 49,400-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate from further wilderness review 7,200 acres in the east portion of the unit, 3,900 acres in the north, 2,600 acres in the southeast, and 2,500 acres in the south.

Rationale: The east portion of the unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. The north and southeast portions do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. The southern boundary is redefined to follow the edge of major rims, the mouths of canyons, and the edge of alluvial fans. This represents the closest definable boundary to the many developments south of the proposed wilderness study area. The remainder of the unit appears to be generally natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Unit Number: 3-159/ID-106-70E/NV-020-811

Unit Name: Tent Creek

Revision of Unit Boundary: During the intensive inventory, the former boundary between Units OR-03-187 and OR-03-159 was determined not to be a road. The two units were combined and are contiguous with Idaho inventory unit ID-106-70E and Nevada unit NV-020-811.

Description

Size: The unit's total acreage is 46,520 acres. The portion in Oregon contains 32,440 acres, including 2,200 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. The portion of the unit in Idaho (ID-106-70E) contains 3,400 acres of public land. The portion in Nevada (NV-020-811) contains 10,680 acres of public land. There are 400 acres of private inholdings in the Nevada portion of the unit.

Location: At the common corner of Oregon, Idaho and Nevada.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads except for a small private parcel in the southwest.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of flat to gently rolling tablelands. Oregon and Mahogany Buttes, Tent and Mahogany Creeks provide the only noticeable diversity of relief. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains a total of approximately eight miles of ways, 19 miles of bladed fence line and three miles of bladed Oregon/Idaho stateline. All of these intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because the sagebrush screens them on the relatively flat terrain. There is also one reservoir in the unit which is substantially unnoticeable due to its small size. The unit appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the absence of vegetative screening and topographic diversity. Tent Creek and Mahogany Creek provide only limited locations for seclusion. The unit's moderate size would provide some opportunities for solitude. However, the unit's elongated shape (the maximum distance from the perimeter to the core is two and one-half miles) would make it difficult to avoid the presence of others.

Recreation: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because the unit's homogeneous topography and vegetation, do not provide significant points of interest.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-160

Unit Name: High Peak

Description

Size: The unit contains 14,040 acres, including 1,280 acres of State land in the proccess of being acquired.

Location: Approximately one-half mile east of U.S. Highway 95 and seven miles north of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The north boundary consists of private land and a county road. West, south and east boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: High Peak is the dominant topographic feature. It is located near the south central boundary. All drainages in the unit radiate from this peak. The north, west and south portions of the unit consist of gently rolling terrain; the east portion relatively flat. Some rimrock is evident on the hills throughout the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 19 miles of ways, one repeater site, five miles of fence, three miles of powerline, three reservoirs and four spring developments. The fence, spring developments, reservoirs and powerline are accompanied by ways. Individually, the intrusions do not detract greatly from the natural setting of the area. However, their cumulative effect is to leave a clear imprint of man's work. At lower points within the unit, the repeater site on High Peak is dominant. From High Peak, the powerline, ways, reservoir and fenceline become dominant. The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The unit is approximately three and one-half miles at its widest point and eight miles long. High Peak is the major topographic feature. Some screening on the ridge provides limited opportunities for solitude. The sagebrush and grasses provide no vegetative screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The configuration and relatively small size of the unit limit opportunities to avoid other users.

Recreation: Viewing the valley bottoms from High Peak, hiking across sagebrush flats, horseback riding, chukar hunting, deer hunting and primitive dry camping are recreational pursuits available in the unit. However, recreational opportunities are not outstanding because of a lack of attractive sites, topographic diversity, and large game populations.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-162

Unit Name: Twelvemile

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory unit 3-162 contains 39,760 acres. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (240, 240, and 3,280 acres). None of the three subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-162A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 36,000 acres, including 1,620 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. There are nine parcels of private property in the unit totalling 560 acres.

Location: Seven miles southeast of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a BLM road on the west, private property on the north, a transmission line construction road on the east, and a pipeline road on the south. Two deadend roads extend into the center of the area from the south boundary; their total length is four miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes the headwaters of Antelope and Twelvemile Creeks. The creeks flow northwest through steep, rimrocked canyons. Plateaus between the canyons vary in relief from relatively flat to rolling. Along the north edge of the unit, the terrain slopes down at the end of Twelvemile Canyon and then levels out into sagebrush flats. Riparian vegetation and mountain mahogany grow along the hillside springs and creek sides. Sagebrush and grass grow on the canyon slopes and plateaus.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Crested wheatgrass was planted on 6,880 acres to the north of a bladed fenceline that crosses the north portion of the unit. There is another seeding of 1,200 acres, bounded by a way and a fenceline, in the west corner of the unit. A 760 acre brush control project is located in the southeast corner. From there a transmission line heads north along the east boundary. All these intrusions are highly visible, and substantially noticeable.

The central part of the unit appears to be generally natural. There are three reservoirs and approximately 12 miles of ways scattered evenly within it, all substantially unnoticeable due to terrain.

An oil drill pad is located in the center of the unit and a radio repeater site is located on the peak. A transmission line leads to the repeater. These intrusions are substantially noticeable. Since the unit is one central ridge and extensive flats, the repeater can be seen from the majority of the unit.

Approximately 4,260 acres of brush control projects lie on the lower slopes to the east and west of Blue Mountain. They are substantially noticeable. A substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding of 680 acres is located in the northeast corner. Approximately 29 miles of fence are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: There is little opportunity to achieve solitude in this unit because of the terrain and lack of vegetative screening. Most of the terrain is flat, and the east half is exposed to Highway 95. Although the highway is outside the unit, it cannot be avoided or ignored.

The west side offers one shallow inner drainage with no vegetative screening; the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding. If the boundaries were adjusted to eliminate substantially noticeable intrusions, the remaining unit would be barbell shaped with approximately eighteen square miles at one end, ten square miles at the other, and a neck about three miles wide and seven miles long following an open ridgeline. Between the repeater and the oil rig platform the neck would be across a steep hillside, less than one mile wide. Visitors would find it difficult to avoid the presence of others in such an area.

Recreation: A visitor could hike, backpack, horseback ride, and sightsee in the unit. However, such opportunities are not outstanding due to the lack of unique or interesting features.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental value evident in the unit is the opportunity for scenic vistas from Blue Mountain. From here the Trout Creek Mountains, Steens Mountains, Alvord Desert, Sheepshead Mountains, Owyhee Mountains, and Santa Rosa Range are visible. All of these sights are out of the unit. The unit itself has little scenic value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Man's work is substantially noticeable, and the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-164

Unit Name: Alcorta Rim

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-164 contains 15,560 acres. During the intensive inventory, a road located one and one-half miles north of the south boundary was identified. This divided the unit into two subunits. It was also determined that the west boundary road and the east boundary road near the southeast corner were mapped one-quarter mile and one-half mile east of their actual locations. Their locations are correctly shown on the intensive inventory maps accompanying this report.

Subunit 3-164B contains 2,240 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-164A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 13,320 acres, including 750 acres of State lands in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately three and one-half miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and three miles east of U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: The west boundary consists of private land and a BLM road. The north, east and south boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit consists of rolling hills to relatively flat land. Near the southeast corner, the rolling hills begin to break away to the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation. The hills contain small outcrops of rimrock. The vegetation is native grasses and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 15 miles of ways, five and one-half miles of fences, five spring developments, three reservoirs, one inactive mine operation and approximately 700 acres of brush control project. Individually, the intrusions do not appear to be substantially noticeable. Collectively, the identified intrusions detract from the natural setting and are substantially noticeable. From any point in the unit, users would come into contact with the imprint of man's work by travelling only a mile.

Solitude: The unit's greatest dimensions are two and one-half miles by eight and one-half miles. The rolling hills provide limited screening and some opportunities for solitude. However, the opportunities are not outstanding because users would have to restrict travel to drainage bottoms to be concealed from other users. The sagebrush and grasses provide no vegetative screening.

Recreation: A user might come to this unit for general sightseeing, deer hunting, chukar hunting, horseback riding or primitive camping. However, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding. The unit does not contain interesting or unique features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are not outstanding .

Unit Number: 3-171

Unit Name: Pole Creek

Description

Size: The unit contains 19,200 acres of public land, including 600 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. There are 200 acres of private inholdings, 80 acres along Pole Creek in two parcels and 120 acres around Rawhide Springs.

Location: 25 miles east of Blue Mountain Pass on U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: Private property and a road form the south boundary. The rest of the unit is surrounded by BLM roads. Three dead-end roads penetrate the south end of the unit. One follows a pipeline, one ends at a reservoir, and another ends at the edge of the Pole Creek rim. Another dead-end road extends through the unit to 520 acres of private land along Pole Creek.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain consists of gentle hills and low knolls. In general, the unit rises towards the center. The Pole Creek drainage lies parallel to the west boundary. It has rims 50 feet high and is the only notable feature in the unit. The vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. There is some riparian growth along the banks of Pole Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Cow camps are located on private land inholdings. The Rawhide Camp includes an airstrip. Although not technically in the unit, the structures cannot be avoided because of the low, shallow roll of the terrain and the central location of two of the cabins.

A 3,000-acre seeding in the center of the unit is substantially unnoticeable because the natural vegetation has largely returned. A noticeable seeding lies along the northwest edge of the unit. The planting rows are still visible.

The unit is divided in half from west to east by a bladed fenceline which is substantially noticeable. A substantially noticeable pipeline with numerous parallel ways extends along the entire east boundary and into the south end of the unit. It is noticeable because of the linear patterns of the adjacent ways and roads and the troughs located throughout the flat east side.

Ways and a large number of cattle trails crisscross the unit in many locations. The cumulative effect of the ways and trails is substantially noticeable. It renders most of the unit unnatural.

Four reservoirs are located in the unit. One reservoir in the unit's center is substantially noticeable due to the contrast created by grazing and trampling inside the fence. Because of the terrain, it can be seen from a long distance. The other reservoirs are in shallow draws and remain substantially hidden.

The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: There is virtually no topographic or vegetative screening except along the Pole Creek drainage. One-third of the drainage is privately owned. The unit is shaped like a trapezoid, seven miles wide at the south end, two miles wide at the north end, and ten miles long. The furthest interior point can be reached with a three mile hike across open terrain. Given its terrain, the unit is too small and elongated to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, nordic skiing, and photography. These opportunities are limited because of the undistinguished terrain. There are no unique photographic opportunities. Opportunities for the primitive and unconfined recreational activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-172/NV-020-809

Unit Name: Deer Flat

Revision of Unit Boundary: Inventory unit 3-172 contains 11,700 acres (11,200 acres in Oregon and 500 acres in Nevada). Roads identified in the southeast and northeast portions of the unit during the intensive inventory form three subunits. Subunits B and C do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below. All of the Nevada lands are in Subunit B.

Subunit Number: 3-172A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 10,100 acres, including 600 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located on the Nevada border immediately east of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, 11 miles east of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation on the west and by roads on the other boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is on a high plateau gently sloping to the east. Several small, shallow drainages lined with rimrock dissect the area. Sagebrush, native grasses and some riparian vegetation along the drainages make up the majority of the vegetation in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments in the subunit include two springs in the northwest, two reservoirs in the southeast, a fenceline along the western and southern boundary and three miles of ways mainly in the north. All of these intrusions are substantially unnoticeable. Their impact upon the landscape is minor, and they are screened by the undulating terrain.

Solitude: Due to the relatively small size of the subunit and the absence of any significant vegetation or topographic screening there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the lack of diversity, challenging features, or any noticeable points of interest.

Supplemental Values: Zoological values include populations of antelope, deer, sagegrouse, and wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural. However, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-173

Unit Name: Jack's Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-173 originally contained 81,930 acres. It was found that 1,400 acres of private property were mistakenly included in that figure. During the intensive inventory a portion of the south boundary was found to be a way and as a result an additional 1,110 acres have been added to the unit. It now contains 81,640 acres. Roads divide the unit into five subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (960, 320, 160, and 120 acres). None of these four subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and they are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-173A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 80,080 acres, including 5,360 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. Two parcels of private property within the unit total 200 acres.

Location: 12 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The southeast boundary is a combination of private property and roads. The remainder of the unit is bounded by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain consists of rolling hills and flats dissected by shallow canyons. The canyons are the headwaters of Antelope, Trail, and Rattlesnake Creeks and the West Little Owyhee River. The vegetation is sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area is traversed by several fences. There are eight reservoirs, most of which are in the northern third of the unit. There are also numerous ways and abandoned trails throughout the area. All the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable due to the flatness of the terrain and the concealing effects of the sagebrush.

Solitude: Most of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is relatively large, and the rolling hills offer topographic screening. The canyons offer outstanding opportunities to achieve solitude. The lack of vegetative screening is compensated by the unit's large size and the topographic screening.

A 1,160-acre narrow finger of roadless land in the southwest corner extends outside the bulk of the unit. It is one mile wide at it's widest point and two miles long. The terrain is flat and lacks any vegetative screening. The strip lies between a road and private property. There is no opportunity for solitude in this area.

Recreation: There is an outstanding opportunity for hunting, camping, backpacking, nordic skiing, fishing, sightseeing, photography, and horseback riding in most of the unit. The terrain lends itself to easy walking and riding. There are many camping locations. The narrow neck in the southwest corner does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. Users would be confined to too small an area to enjoy primitive recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: An old pioneer wagon route cuts through the unit. Old lakebeds and canyons offer opportunities for geological study. The unit contains wild horses and antelope.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 78,920-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,160-acres from further review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area lacking wilderness characteristics is a narrow finger of roadless land extending outside the bulk of the unit; it lacks outstanding opportuniiest for solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-178

Unit Name: Rattlesnake Creek

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-178 incorporates former inventory units 3-200 and 3-201. During the intensive iventory, the boundaries between the units were determined to be ways. The east boundary of Unit 201 was also found to be a way. The boundary was moved to the next identifiable road adding 2,880 acres to the unit.

Description

Size: The unit contains 58,400 acres, including 2,640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: 20 miles southeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains two pronounced canyons in the west portion, Rattlesnake Creek and Chimney Creek. Rattlesnake is the most dramatic. The west boundary runs through Chimney Creek Canyon. To the east, the remainder of the unit consists of sagebrush flats and some low rolling hills. Peacock Lake is located along the eastern boundary. The vegetation is sagebrush and grass. Many of the slopes are mostly grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: An aerial brush control project was carried out on 9,200 acres in the center of the unit in 1964. Portions of the project edge are still substantially noticeable, but the vegetative composition in other portions is similar to adjacent untreated lands.

The reservoir development around Peacock Lake is substantially noticeable. The concentration of livestock around the reservoir has resulted in noticeable trampling of the area. Concentrated grazing also has detracted from the apparent naturalness of Rattlesnake Canyon.

Nine other reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable because they are small and are located in gullies. Most of them are in the northeast portion of the unit. Three are in the southwest; one of is on the southwest boundary road.

The unit is traversed in two places by north-south fencelines. One fenceline heads west from the unit center and then turns up Rattlesnake Canyon. The fences are substantially unnoticeable.

Several north-south ways cross the unit. One was originally improved but is no longer regularly used or maintained. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are situated in gullies or rolling hills and are hidden from view.

Because of the large number of developments and their location throughout the unit, their cumulative effect detracts significantly from the unit's naturalness. It does not appear to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The unit is seven miles wide and 13 miles long. The size and shape of the unit contribute to an opportunity for solitude. However, the lack of significant variation in the terrain and lack of vegetative screening would make it difficult for a user to avoid othears in the unit. The most pronounced relief is in Rattlesnake Canyon. However, it is only six miles long, narrow, and deep. Users could not avoid other parties. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing. The opportunities are not outstanding because the topography is not diverse or unique.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental value is the scenic views from within the Rattlesnake Canyon.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear natural because of the cumulative impact of the numerous intrusions. The works of man are substantially noticeable in scattered portions of the unit and natural ecosystems have been noticeably altered. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude nor an outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-179

Unit Name: Rawhide

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: At the end of the initial inventory Unit 3-179 contained 23,600 acres. However, during the intensive inventory field work, two boundaries were found to be incorrect. The west central boundary road was found to be a way, which moved this boundary to include 700 acres of Unit 3-181. A route in the northeast portion of the unit was found to be a road, which removed 2,560 acres from the unit. Those 2,560 acres were added to Unit 3-143. They are described in the narrative for that unit.

Description

Size: 21,740 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and 12 miles southwest of the Three Forks crossing on the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private land and county and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain over approximately 90 percent of the unit ranges from flat to gently rolling hills. The major topographic relief is the Antelope Creek and Field Creek drainages. Rimrock extends along some of the shallow, narrow drainages in the southeast. The vegetation consists of a crested wheatgrass seeding, native grasses, and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 34 miles of ways, eight and one-half miles of pipeline, one 10,000-gallon water storage tank, five livestock watering troughs, 14 and one-half miles of fence, five reservoirs, one watering pit, 2,720 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding and an old 1,600-acre burn. The 2,720-acre seeding is substantially noticeable in the west central part of the unit due to the presence of furrows. Individually, the other intrusions do not appear to be noticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills. However, the cumulative affect of the intrusions becomes substantially noticeable because of their proximity to one another. A user moving through the unit would see many of them. The unit does not appear to be generally free from the works of man.

Solitude: The unit is approximately eleven miles by five miles at its greatest dimensions. Except for the Antelope Creek and Field Creek drainages, the majority of the unit is relatively flat. There is a limited opportunity for solitude in the drainages. The draws are narrow and shallow and would not allow users to move about without coming in contact with other parties. There is no vegetative screening in the unit. Because of its shape and the general lack of topographic and vegetative screening the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for antelope, deer and chukar hunting, primitive camping and horseback riding. The opportunities are not outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain, natural settings, and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be substantially free from the works of man. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-180

Unit Name: High Ridge

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-180 contains 15,500 acres. During the intensive inventory field work, a road was identified in the northeast corner. It divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-180A contains 15,300 acres and Subunit 3-180B contains 200 acres. Subunit 3-180B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and therefore is not described in the following narrative.

Subunit Number: 3-180A

Description

Size: 15,300 acres.

Location: Approximately 24 miles northeast of from McDermitt, Nevada, and 18 miles southwest of the Three Forks crossing of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads. A dead-end road enters the unit on the east central boundary and parallels a pipeline for two miles.

Physical Characteristics: Ninety five percent of the terrain is flat to gently rolling. The major topographic relief is a ridge with shallow breaks in the west central portion. Some rimrock occurs in a draw in the north portion of the subunit. The vegetation consists of a crested wheatgrass seeding, native grasses and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains an airstrip, three reservoirs, one-half mile of canal, 15 miles of fence, two miles of pipeline (including a stock water trough), 1,300 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding with evident furrows, 3,920 acres of brush control, and appproximately 29 miles of ways. Because the number of intrusions, their proximity to each other, and the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is approximately six miles by five miles at its greatest dimensions. A limited opportunity for solitude exists on the ridge in the west central part of the subunit. However, the ridge is narrow and the drainages are shallow. Users could not move about without coming in contact with esch other. In the rest of the unit, the relief is gentle and offers little concealment. There is no vegetative screening in the unit. The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The limited topographic relief and vegetation offer few primitive recreation opportunities. Hiking across sagebrush flats, horseback riding, dry camping hunting and the appreciation of open space are the available recreational opportunities. The subunit does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not meet the criteria for a wilderness study area because of the many intrusions, the minimal opportunities for solitude, and the lack of outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Unit Number: 3-181

Unit Name: Antelope Creek

Revision of Unit Boundaries: After the initial inventory, Unit 3-181 contained 21,720 acres. During the intensive inventory, it was found that the north boundary road was inaccurately mapped; it is actually one and one-quarter miles to the south. As a result, 700 acres, were deleted and added to Unit 3-179. The southwest corner was also inaccurately drawn. Upon correction, 360 acres were added to the unit.

Description

Size: 21,380 acres.

Location: 18 miles east of Blue Mountain Pass on U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: Unit 3-181 is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately 98 percent of the unit is relatively flat. the only relief in the unit is the Antelope Creek drainage. Rimrock outcrops along the narrow, shallow drainages of Antelope Creek. The vegetation consists of an 11,200-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, native grasses, and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains an 11,200-acre crested wheatgrass seeding (with furrows still apparent), approximately 32 miles of ways, five miles of pipeline, ten miles of fence, a cow camp, three stock water troughs, one wildlife guzzler, and three reservoirs. Except for the seeding, the individual intrusions would not appear substantially noticeable. When all of them are considered, however, they are substantially noticeable. A user moving through the area would not be able to avoid the works of man for any appreciable amount of time.

Solitude: Because the unit is relatively flat, a visitor easily would be able to observe activity anywhere in the unit except for the Antelope Creek drainage. The drainage is narrow and shallow and does not provide a great degeee of solitude. There is no vegetative screening in the unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are few opportunities for primitive recreation due to the uniform topography and vegetation within the unit. A user could hike across sagebrush flats, ride horseback, dry camp and hunt. However, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation becauseof the lack of challenging terrain, points of interest, attrative sights or landmarks, low game populations, and secluded sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The cumulative affect of the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable within the unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-182

Unit Name: Red Rocks

Revision of Unit Boundaries: After the initial inventory, Unit 3-182 contained 22,400 acres. During the intensive inventory it was found that the unit was divided by a road, thereby resulting in the identification of two subunits 3-182A and 3-182B contain 10,200 and 12,200 acres, respectively.

Subunit Number: 3-182A

Description

Size: 10,200 acres, including 480 acres of State lands in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately 22 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and 18 miles southwest of the Three Forks crossing on the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: BLM roads except for some private property along the north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the subunit is flat to gently rolling. The only noticeable relief is the Little Snake drainage. The drainage is shallow, narrow, and approximately three and one-half miles long. The only rimrock in the unit is located in this drainage. Vegetation is low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains three reservoirs, one aircraft landing field, three-quarters of a mile of fenceline, and ten miles of ways. The way into Little Snake Reservoir is heavily used by fisherman. Because of their low profile and the relatively flat terrain, the developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit offers no vegetative screening. The unit is approximately four and one-half miles wide and five miles long at its greatest dimensions and narrows to less than one mile on the south end. The subunit's small size and narrow shape would confine users to a relatively small area. The Little Snake drainage is the major topographic relief. It offers limited solitude because it is narrow and shallow and would not allow users to move about without coming in contact with other parties. The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: People hunt deer and antelope om the subunit now and fish in the Little Snake Reservoir. People could also ride horses and camp in the subunit. However, opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally free from the imprint of man's work. However, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Subunit Number: 3-182B

Description

Size: 12,200 acres, including 800 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately seven miles east of Blue Mountain Reservoir near U.S. Highway 95, 23 miles north of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: BLM roads except private land along portions of the north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Ninty five percent of Subunit 3-182B is flat to gently rolling. Battle Creek and Rattlesnake Creek are two noticeable drainages. The major topographic relief in two drainages is on private land. Rattlesnake Creek contains approximately one and one-half miles of shallow rimrock on public land and Battle Creek contains no rimrock on public land. The vegetation is low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately ten miles of ways, ten miles of fence, and three reservoirs. Individually, the developments are not noticeable because of their small size and limited topographic screening. However, the cumulative effect of the developments is substantially noticeable due to their number and proximity to one another. A user moving through the subunit could not walk far without seeing one or more of them.

Solitude: The unit is approximately two miles wide and five miles long at its greatest dimensions. The subunit's limited size and narrow shape would tend to confine users. The Battle Creek and Rattlesnake Creek drainages would not provide significant opportunities for solitude because the Battle Creek and Potomac Ranch operations are located in the drainages and are separated only by four miles. The remainder of the unit is flat to gently rolling with virtually no vegetative screening. Due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening, its shape, and relatively small size, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Deer, antelope and chukar hunting are the primary recreational pursuits in the area. Other opportunities would include primitive camping, horseback riding, and the general appreciation of open space. Outstanding opportunities for recreation do not exist because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The subunit does not appear to be generally natural. The area also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-183

Unit Name: Deadhorse

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Unit 3-183 contains 16,300 acres. Two roads identified divide the unit into three subunits: Subunit A (15,900 acres), Subunit B (320 acres) and Subunit C (80 acres). Subunits B and C do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wildernes study areas and are not described below.

Unit Number: 3-183A

Description

Size: 15,900 acres, including 1,200 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: 20 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and eight miles east of U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately 75 percent of the subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. The major topographic relief is the Rattlesnake and Deer Creek drainages. Shallow rimrock outcrops in the drainages. The remaining 25 percent of the terrain is rolling hills and ridges. Vegetation consists of native grasses and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains 22 miles of ways, 19 miles of fence, seven reservoirs and five spring developments. Individually, they do not appear to be noticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills. However, the cumulative effect of the developments is substantially noticeable because of their number and proximity to one another. They would appear to dominate the landscape to a person walking through the subunit.

Solitude: The subunit is approximately eight and one-half miles by four and one-half miles at its greatest dimensions. The subunit's modest size and narrow shape would tend to confine users. The Rattlesnake and Deer Creek drainages would not provide significant opportunities for solitude because they are narrow and shallow. They would not allow users to move about with coming into contact with each other. There is virtually no vegetative screening in the subunit. Because of the subunit's shape and lack of topographic and vegetative screening, of the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The topography and vegetation do not offer many opportunities for primitive recreation. Antelope and deer hunting are existing recreational pursuits. Horseback riding, primitive dry camping, and hiking through sagebrush terrain are other opportunities. The opportunities are not outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain, natural settings, and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area does not appear to be generally natural due to the magnitude of man's developments. The area also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-186

Unit Name: Field Creek

Description

Size: 11,580 acres, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation and 24 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes a high plateau gently sloping to the north-northeast. Ninty seven percent of the area contains shallow drainages and flat to low rolling terrain. Field Creek is in the northeast corner and is the dominant topographic feature. Shallow outcrops of rimrock exist along Field Creek. The vegetation is low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately six miles of ways, one spring development and one stock water reservoir. The developments are substantially unnoticeable because they are few in number and are dispersed throughout the unit.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited because the terrain would not allow users to move about without coming in contact with each other. From the center of the unit, it is one and one-half miles to the east and west boundaries, and two and one-half miles to the north and south boundaries. There is virtually no vegetative screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its shape and absences of topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: People hunt deer, antelope and sagegrouse in the unit. Primitive camping, horseback riding and hiking across sagebrush flats could also be considered opportunities. However, due to the lack of interesting or challenging terrain unique or unusual sites, opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally free from the imprint of man's work. However, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-188

Unit Name: Star Valley

Description

Size: 10,320 acres.

Location: Approximately 22 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada and one mile southeast of Anderson Crossing on the Little Owyhee River in Louse Canyon.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: There is virtually no topographic relief in the unit. The terrain slopes gently to the east-northeast, but appears to be flat. The vegetation is native grasses and low sagebrush. There are no rock outcrops or rimrock in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one reservoir and 15 miles of ways. Two of the ways are bladed and are substantially noticeable. The bladed ways lack regular and continuous use and do not meet the Bureau's road definition. The bladed way from the east boundary road to the north boundary road is approximately one-half mile long. The way from the west boundary to the east boundary is also bladed and is approximately five miles long. The remaining eight and one-half miles of ways are close to each other. A person walking through the unit would see many of them. Individually, the ways do not appear noticeable. However, the cumulative effect of the ways is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is approximately five miles by four miles at its greatest dimensions. There is virtually no vegetative or topographic screening. The does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its limited size, shape, and lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: The topography and vegetation would limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Antelope hunting is the only current recreational pursuit. People also could camp, hiking across sagebrush flats and ride horseback. None of these opportunities are outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 3-191/NV-020-810

Unit Name: Carin "C"

Revision of Unit Boundary: The unit contains 11,660 acres. During the intensive inventory, a road was identified in the northwest portion. The road divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-191B is 160 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area; it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-191A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 11,500 acres of public land; 7,800 acres including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired are in Oregon, and 3,700 acres are in Nevada.

Location: Six miles south of Anderson Crossing of the Little Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads except for two small parcels of private land along the northwest and southeast boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of low rolling hills and flats with little change in topography except for a few narrow ravines and shallow drainages lined with rimrock. Vegetation is mostly sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions in the unit include two developed springs, six miles of ways, and six miles of fence. Approximately three miles of the fenceline are bladed. The developed springs are substantially unnoticeable due to the minor disturbance involved. The ways and fencelines are also substantially unnoticeable due to the vegetative screening provided by the short sagebrush on the relatively flat terrain. The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the absence of vegetative and topographic screening and its relatively small size.

Recreation: There is no outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation in this unit because the uniform topography and vegetation do not offering any interesting, or unique points of interest.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-194/ID-106-48A

Unit Name: Lookout Butte

Revision of Units Boundaries: The unit contains 65,640 acres of public land in Oregon and 39,200 acres of public land in Idaho. The total acreage is 104,840 acres. During the intensive inventory, the western boundary of Unit 3-194 was found to be a way. As a result, Unit 3-198 is now included with 3-194. In addition, the north boundary was found to have been

inaccurately drawn. That has been corrected on the accompanying maps. A road was identified in the southwest corner, creating Subunits 3-194A and 3-194B. Subunit B contains 480 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-194A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 104,360 acres, including 1,580 acres of State land in Oregon in the process of being acquired. There are 65,160 acres of public lands in Oregon and 39,200 acres of public land in Idaho. Three parcels of State land totaling 1,920 acres in Idaho are not included in the inventory. There is no private property in the unit.

Location: The unit is located in the corner of Idaho and Oregon south of the South Fork of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads except for a small section of private property along the southeast boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is basically a large sagebrush flat. It contains several playas and four low, gently sloped buttes. Defeat Butte (5,710 ft.) is in the center of the unit. Lookout Butte is two miles west of Defeat Butte. Two more low buttes, one of which is Spring Butte are located in the northeast corner. South of Lookout Butte is Lookout Lake, the largest playa in the unit. In the southwest corner, Tent Creek forms a small canyon that dissipates and then reappears in a twisting configuration in the southeast corner. Spring Creek crosses the center of the eastern boundary through a shallow draw. Midway along the west boundary, a low rim extends east from Stoney Corral. It is located along the headwaters of Toppin Creek. Except for Defeat and Lookout Buttes none of the features is pronounced.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions in the unit include 22 reservoirs, approximately 66 miles of ways and approximately 20 miles of bladed fenceline. Due to the absence of any substantial screening, the high number of developments, and their distribution throughout the unit, their cumulative impact is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: There is virtually no vegetative screening throughout this unit. There is no topographic screening except in an occasional shallow draw. The unit is roughly triangular in shape. This shape and the large sizeoffer some opportunities for solitude. However, due to the absence of vegetative or topographic screening the opportunities are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities in this unit for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, and photography. The hiking and riding activities are limited to an uneventful passage through sagebrush, with no particular destination point or attractive sites. There are no unique photographic opportunities in this unit. The hunting opportunity is limited. For these reasons, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural nor does it offer an outstanding opportunity for either solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 3-195/ID-106-48B

Unit Name: Louse Canyon

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 3-195 originally contained 67,620 acres in Oregon. During the intensive inventory field investigations, extensive boundary corrections were made. Several of the boundaries initially mapped as roads are either ways or do not exist. Some boundaries were mapped in the wrong location in the initial inventory. When the boundaries were corrected, Units 189, 192, 193, 196 and 197 were incorporated in Unit 3-195.

Description

Size: The unit contains 162,550 acres of public land. This includes 128,840 acres in Oregon and 33,710 acres in Idaho. There are 680 acres of State land near Anderson Crossing which are presently in the process of being acquired. Along the South Fork of the Owyhee at Bald Mountain Canyon and Duke's Creek, there are two state sections totalling 1,280 acres. There are three 40-acre private inholdings along Louse Canyon, near Anderson Crossing. The two State sections on the South Fork and the private lands are not included in the inventory.

Location: The unit is located 30 miles northeast of McDermitt. It is situated immediately south of Five Bars of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads except along the northeast boundary, where it is bounded by State land. Two roads in Oregon extend into the unit for approximately 18 miles and dead-end at reservoirs. Four roads in Idaho enter the unit for approximately five miles and dead-end at reservoirs or the canyon rim.

Physical Characteristics: The unit offers two types of terrain: A high-elevation plateau and deep canyons. The plateau consists of sagebrush flats, playas, and an occasional gently sloped hill or butte. The plateau is located in the center of the unit. The west and east boundaries are along two major canyons. The canyons come together in the northernmost point of the unit at Five Bar. This is the confluence of the West Little Owyhee River and the South Fork of the Owyhee River. The confluence of Toppin Creek and West Little Owyhee River is nearby. Toppin Creek Canyon extends into the central portion of the unit. Other smaller canyons in the unit include Bald Mountain Canyon, Duke's Creek Canyon, Dry Canyon, and Spring Creek Canyon. The canyons are up to 1300 feet deep, with steep or sheer walls allowing only occasional access. The South Fork of the Owyhee River contains white water rapids during the spring and early summer. There are low, rolling hills in two areas above the canyon rim. The areas are along the South Fork in the Idaho portion and around Stoney Corral midway along the southwest boundary in Oregon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains thirty-five water developments. Most are either small pits or reservoirs and all are above the rims. The largest group is around the Toppin Creek drainages in the central plateau. Six above the rim of the South Fork, and the rest are strung out evenly along the east side of Louse Canyon. The reservoirs in the Toppin Creek drainage are in low hills. Since these reservoirs are small, they are screened by the topography. Those along the rims are also screened because they are located in shallow draws. Several reservoirs, such as those at the extreme top of the Toppin Creek drainage and those in the southeast corner of the unit are

pits dug into natural playas. The tailings from these pits appear to be small sand dunes from a distance.

There are four fencelines in the unit. A small fence enters the unit from the northeast boundary, near Crotcher's Crossing. It is one mile long, cutting off a tabletop ridge that juts out like a peninsula into the canyon. Because of its short length and location, it remains substantially unnoticeable. The three other fences cross the central plateau from east to west, forming grazing allotment boundaries. They were bladed during construction. These blade scars are visible only from high points or when one is directly upon them. They are substantially unnoticeable because there are few high points and the fences are several miles apart.

Approximately 105 miles of ways are scattered over the area. The ways are separated by considerable distances, and someone hiking across the unit would see few of them. They are also shielded from view on the relatively flat terrain by the sagebrush. One cannot see the ways unless directly upon them or looking down their length. They are substantially unnoticeable.

The unit as a whole appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit's large size greatly contributes to the ability of a visitor to avoid others. Topographic screening is unlimited in and along the canyons. Out on the flats, the sheer vastness allows one to find solitude from others. The ninety-five miles of canyons and the thousands of acres of flatlands offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers many opportunities for recreational activities. Some of the more outstanding opportunities include river running, backpacking, photography, fishing, hiking, small cave spelunking, hunting, exploring, rock climbing,and sightseeing. Exploring the length of the canyon is challenging for people on foot or in boats. There are unlimited sites to photograph along the canyon. Subjects include whitewater, geologic formations, wildlife, and scenic vistas. The walls of the canyon offer an occasional cave to explore. The whitewater in the South Fork offers excellent sport for the rafter or kayaker. There are game fish in the river. Hunting for chukar, waterfowl or a trophy buck provide challenging experiences. Once out on the sagebrush flats, unimpeded hiking, horseback riding, snow shoeing, and Nordic skiing, can be experienced for many miles. Crossing the plateau would probably take two days on foot.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are outstanding because of the diversity, challenge and uniqueness of the potential activities.

Supplemental Values: The area is known for its scenic quality. There are spectacular views within the canyon's walls. From the plateau above one can view the Owyhee Range, the Santa Rosas, and the Trout Creeks. The area is a classroom for the study of canyon ecosystems, the region's geologic past, and the effects of erosion. There are archeological sites, both prehistoric and historic, in the unit. Zoological values include excellent raptor habitat, river otter, and a potential bighorn sheep habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 162,550 acre wilderness area, 128,840 acres in Oregon and 33,710 acres in Idaho.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

PRINEVILLE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 5-5

Unit Name: Horse Ridge (This unit includes the 600-acre Western Juniper Instant Study Area)

Introduction: This unit entirely surrounds the Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area (RNA). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all primitive and natural areas designated before November 1, 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the schedule of the wilderness review of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the 600-acre RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that it should be re-evaluated as part of the larger inventory unit which surrounds it. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of the larger unit, including the RNA.

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory a portion of the northern boundary was found to be a way. An additional 231 acres of public land was added to the unit.

Description

Size: 4,855 acres.

Location: 19 miles southeast of Bend, and directly south of State Highway 20.

Boundaries: BLM and state roads, and private inholdings.

Physical Characteristics: The topography contains Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit, which are steep sloped basalt hills. A small jagged rim of Columbia River Basalt is parallel to the southern boundary of the unit. The vegetation is dominated by dense stands of western juniper, with an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, threadleaf sedge, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteira

Size: This unit does not meet the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by human activities and no longer remain in a generally natural condition. Over two miles of old State Highway 20 (abandoned and now considered a way) are substanially noticeable.

The ways remaining in the northern half of this unit are generally reverting back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. Two ways (totaling two miles in length) are highly unnatural. There are also 13 miles of fence, two miles of dirt bike ways, and an abandoned junk car. The remaining portions of the unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude area are not available within this unit. The small size and the lack of both the vegetative and topographic screening mean that a visitor to this area would not be able to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

Recreation: There are several primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities available within this unit, such as hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. None of these activities are outstanding because there are no points of interest to attract visitors to this unit, and there is a limited amount diversity of

vegetation and topography. The size, shape and physical attributes of this unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: The 600 acre Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area is located within the boundaries of this unit. It was established in 1967 to preserve a nearly pristine example of the western juniper/big sage/threadleaf sedge plant community.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprints of man's works are substantially noticeable in the southern half of this unit. The remaining portion lacks outstanding opportunities for visitors to experience a sense of solitude or to engage in primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-6

Unit Name: Lower John Day

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory of this unit, a portion of the eastern boundary was found to be a way. An additional 2,375 acres were added to the unit.

Description

Size: This unit contains 21,945 acres of public land. There are no State inholdings, but there are 720 acres of private property within the unit.

Location: The northern portion of this unit begins approximately three and one-half miles south of Cottonwood Bridge (13 miles east of Moro, on State Highway 206). This unit extends to the south along the John Day River for about 27 miles, ending five miles north of Thirtymile Creek.

Boundaries: All the boundaries of this entire unit are formed by the boundaries of private property. The southern boundary is a road.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately 35 miles of the John Day River are contained in this unit. The unit is very long and narrow with a very irregular configuration, resulting from a fragmented land ownership pattern.

The unit contains a wide variety of Columbia River Basalt formations. Reddish brown canyons rise up to 1,500 feet above the John Day River. Thousands of years of erosion have cut the canyons, leaving unique combinations, textures, and sizes of basalt pillars, columns, isolated escarpments, horizontal walls, blocks, and small plateaus that rise in irregular stepladder fashions along the mountain sides.

The vegetation within this unit is generally dominated by Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass along the canyon slopes, with juniper trees scattered throughout the area. Big sage and hackberry trees are also found in many areas. Rabbitbrush, cactus, lupine, cheatgrass, and other native and introduced species of grasses, forbs and sage can also be found.

There are many scenic side canyons, but they run into privately owned property within a very short distance of the John Day River.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Roads lead down to the John Day River just west of Horseshoe Bend, down Buckskin Canyon, and east of Penny Spring. Other roads extend into the unit for a short distance east of McInnes Norton Ridge, northeast of Wilson Point, and north of Dipping Vat Spring. Several ways were also found by Horse Pasture Spring (one-half mile in length), northwest of Horseshoe Bend (one-half mile), north and east of Potlatch Canyon (one and one-half miles), north of Buckskin Canyon (one mile), south and east of Spring Canyon (two and one-half miles), and in and north of Ferry Canyon (three and one-half miles). There are also several miles of fence and a few developed springs. These fences, ways, and developed springs do not dominate the landscape because of their low visual contrast with the surrounding environment. The cumulative effect of these human improvements is limited, and the landscape appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist along the John Day River. The feeling of being alone in an isolated and unihabited area is a dominant impression in the massive canyons along the river. It would also be relatively easy for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the narrow, twisting canyons.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude also exist in several isolated river coves, plateaus, and side canyons within the unit.

An airport located on private land could detract from the quality of solitude in its immediate vicinity. Air traffic appeared fairly infrequent.

On the uplands above the river, 2,575 acres are located in narrow fingers of public land which lack the size, shape, topographic and vegetative screening that would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for river running in particular. Usually, during the spring and early summer months there is sufficient water to successfully run the John Day River. Although the river contains only one Class IV rapid (Clarno rapids), even experienced river runners could enjoy a river trip through the John Day Canyons. In addition there are outstanding opportunities for backpacking, fishing, mountain climbing, rock climbing, photography, birdwatching, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. The narrow fingers of public land do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: A variety of Columbia River Basalt formations Offer interesting geological features. In addition, this inventory unit contains raptor habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 19,370 acres. Eliminate 2,575 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for several kinds of primitive and unconfined recreation. The areas which lack wilderness characterisitics are narrow fingers of public land which project into the other surrounding ownerships.

Unit Number: 5-8

Unit Name: North Pole Ridge

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory a portion of the western boundary of this unit was found to be a way. A finger of public land with 2,190 acres was added to the unit. Horse Island, identified as Inventory Unit 5-79 in the initial inventory, is located in the John Day River within Unit 5-8. It is now incorporated in Unit 5-8 and is included in the following description and proposed decision.

Description

Size: This unit contains 12,182 acres of public land with 160 acres of private inholdings. Horse Island contains about two acres.

Location: This unit is located approximately six miles north of Clarno.

Boundaries: The eastern and western sides are bounded by private property. The northern boundary is a natural gas pipeline access route and the southern boundary is a combination of a road and private property boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately six river miles of the John Day River are contained in this unit. The unit has a very long, narrow, irregular shape.

The unit contains a wide variety of Columbia River Basalt formations. The canyon walls rise up to 1,500 feet above the John Day River. Pillars, columns, isolated escarpments, blocks, and small plateaus rise in irregular stepladder fashions along the canyon's sides.

The vegetation is dominated by Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass along the canyon slopes, with juniper trees scattered throughout the area. Big sage and hackberry trees are also found in many areas. Rabbitbrush, cactus, lupine, cheatgrass, and other native and introduced species of grasses, forbs and sage can also be found.

There are several scenic side canyons that are also very scenic, but they run into privately owned property within a very short distance of the John Day River.

Horse Island is relatively flat, but there is some relief in the center. It contains several juniper trees and an understory of big sagebrush, sedge, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several small areas have been altered by the works of man. There is a way in the very southern portion. There is also less than one mile of fence and one primitive developed spring. The cumulative effect of these improvements is minimal and the landscape within this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist along the John Day River. Solitude can be obtained by either floating or hiking down the river (depending upon the time of year). It would be relatively easy for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors because of the size, and the topography of the unit. Outstanding opportunities for solitude also exist in several isolated river coves, plateaus, and side canyons. Narrow, irregular projections of public land bordered by private land do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: River running is perhaps the most outstanding type of primitive and unconfined recreational activity that could occur in this unit.

During the spring and early summer months there is usually sufficient water to successfully run the river. In addition there are outstanding oportunities for backpacking, fishing, mountain climbing, rock climbing, photography, birdwatching, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. The narrow projections of public land do not offer outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains a variety of Columbia River Basalt formations. It also contains threatened or endangered raptors.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 6,062 acres. Eliminate 6,120 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and human works are substantially unnoticeable. The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for several types of primitive and unconfined recreation. The acres which are proposed for elimination from the review are narrow, irregular projections of public land which lack widerness characteristics. They are confined, and lack topographic diversity, vegetative screening and opportunities for unconfined recreational activities.

Unit Number: 5-9

Unit Name: Spring Basin

Description

Size: This unit contains 6,283 acres of public land. This includes 963 acres of reclamation withdrawals and 275 acres of powersite withdrawals. There is a 40-acre parcel of private inholding within the unit.

Location: Approximately three miles southeast of Clarno.

Boundaries: The western boundary is a combination of a county maintained road and private property boundaries. The southern boundary is a combination of roads and private property. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by private property.

Physical Characteristics: Elevations range from 1340 to 2827 feet. The topography is rugged and diversified. Three major steep-sloped canyons almost join each other in the south-central portion. Irregular clusters of juniper trees cover a large portion of the unit, especially in some of the drainages. The understory plants include big sage, green rabbitbrush, snakeweed, buckwheat, hedgehog cactus, bluebunch wheatgrass, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of the landscape this unit have altered by the works of man. A road extends into the southern portion of this unit for half a mile. A mining claim was filed in 1976 for Morrisonite, but the area shows no recent evidence of mining activity. There are six miles of ways, and approximately three miles of fence within this unit. There is also an old dump in Section 15, T. 8 S., R. 19 E., W.M. The cumulative effect of these manmade improvements upon the overall primeval character of this unit is minimal. The unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the impact of human work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Oustanding opportunities for solitude are available in the three canyons which contain a variety of rugged terrain and dense vegetative cover.

Recreation: Several different types of primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available within this unit. They include hiking, camping, hunting, and botanic, geologic, and ecologic studies. There are several points of interest where the visitor could view scenic panoramas of the John Day River country. The quality of these attributes is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit supports a rare specie of cacti (Pediocactus Simposonii) and perhaps other rare plant species.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 5,982 acres. Eliminate 301 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit generally remains in a natural condition. The diversity of topography combined with the vegetative screening provided by the stands of juniper trees provides an environment where outstanding opportunities for solitude can be experienced. The canyons offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. It is proposed to eliminate 300 acres because of narrow configurations which do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation. One acre would be eliminated because of unnaturalness.

Unit Number: 5-10

Unit Name: Mt. Misery

Description

Size: 5,055 acres.

Location: Two miles southwest of Kimberly.

Boundaries: The western portion is bounded by a BLM-maintained road and private property. The southern portion is bounded by a F.A.A. maintained road (leading to a Federal Aircraft Communication Station), and private property. The northern and eastern portions are bounded by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The topographic features are the rugged, reddish-brown bluffs just west of the John Day River. These bluffs are located in the northeast and south portions, rising up to 3,200 feet above the John Day River. Scattered clusters of juniper trees, pine trees, mountain mahogany, and other plants cling to the very steep east-facing slopes of the bluffs. The topography in the northwest portion consists of two canyons formed by First and Second Creeks. Stands of juniper trees occur along the north-facing slopes and bottoms of the canyons. Big and low sage and Idaho fescue are the predominant understory plant species. The west half is part of a relatively flat plateau, with small basins, outcrops of Columbia River Basalt, clusters of juniper trees, a few pine trees, big and low sage, and other plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: There is an old wooden corral and a way and a fence that are both less than one mile long in the northwest portion. There is alsoevidence that pine trees were logged at one time in this area. The

cumulative impact of these alterations of the landscape is minimal, because they are limited to a small portion of the unit. The remainder generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit. The small size, very irregular public land ownership pattern, and almost completely impassable topography of the rugged John Day River bluffs, would restrict visitors to limited areas. The remaining portion of the unit above the bluffs is small and confining with a very irregular shape.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. None of these primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities can be experienced in an outstanding manner because of the physical characteristics which confine and seriously restrict movement through this unit.

Supplemental Values: The rugged Columbia River Basalt bluffs are scenic.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The small size, very irregular shape, and topographic features of this unit preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-11

Unit Name: Fossil Beds

Description

Size: 7,623 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles south-southwest of Kimberly.

Boundaries: A BLM maintained road, private property, and the John Day fossil Beds National Monument form the boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains two large portions of land that are connected by a 40 acre parcel of public land. The shape of this unit is extremely irregular.

The topography in the east half consists of steep-sloped mountains that rise from around 2,800 feet up to 4,777 feet. They form a range that extends in a north-southeast direction. The north-facing slopes are highly dissected by several washes just south of Squaw Creek. The vegetation in thisportion includes clusters of juniper trees and a few pine trees scattered along the steep hillsides. The understory includes big sage, currant, green rabbitbrush, salix, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Sandberg's bluegrass.

A massive, reddish brown, basaltic butte and a steeply sloped mountain range that extends in an east-west direction dominate the landscape in the west half. Clusters of juniper trees are scattered along the steep sides and crests of the mountains and along the foothills of the butte. Bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Sandberg's bluegrass also grow in this part of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: This unit contains several areas that have been altered by the works of man. There are seven miles of ways and six miles of

fence. These ways are well into the process of reverting back to a natural condition. The cumulative effect of the human disturbances on the overall naturalness of this unit is minimal. The majority of the unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit. The extremely irregular shape of the unit makes it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within the same area. The size of this unit would seriously confine visitors to relatively small regions, greatly increasing the chances of encountering other visitors within this same area.

Recreation: Hiking, wildlife, vegetative, and geologic study, photography, hunting, and sightseeing can all be experienced within this unit. Opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because the unit's small size and irregularly shaped boundary restrict users to relatively small areas.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is generally in a natural condition the very irregular shape and size of this unit prohibit any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-18

Unit Name: Rocky Canyon

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: A portion of the east boundary was found to be a way. As a result an additional 2,826 acres are included in this unit, bringing the total public land acreage to 8,466 acres.

Description

Size: 8,466 acres.

Location: 11 miles south of Prineville.

Boundaries: The west boundary is a utility powerline maintenance road. The east boundary is a BLM road. The south boundary is a county road. The north boundary is a combination of a privately owned road and private inholdings.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of very low rolling hills with little topographic relief, outcroppings of dark brown Columbia River Basalt, and small dry alkali lake beds. Juniper trees dominate the vegetation of this area, with an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, cheatgrass, and other native and introduced plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: This unit contains 586 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, 11 miles of ways, and five and one-half miles of fence.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available. The size and lack of topographic vegetative screening prevent a visitor from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people within the unit.

Recreation: Primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, sightseeing, photography, and hunting and nature study are available in this unit. None of these recreational activities can be experienced in a

truly outstanding manner because this unit contains only a limited diversity of topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The naturalness of this unit is marginal because of the numerous ways and crested wheatgrass seedings. In addition the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-19

Unit Name: Chimney Rock

Description

Size: 5,120 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles south of Prineville.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private property. BLM and county roads and State Highway 27 form the other boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The eastern portion includes the Crooked River and the western half of the Crooked River Canyon. Vegetation in the east half includes scattered clusters of juniper trees along the steep, basaltic canyon hillsides, a few ponderosa pine trees along the banks of the Crooked River, riparian habitat along the Crooked River, big sage, green rabbitbrush, native bunchgrass, and other plant species. The west half contains dense stands of juniper trees with an understory of big sage, bitterbrush, and native bunchgrass species. The topography in the west is relatively flat and gradually slopes downward to the west.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by man. Several small areas (including the Chimney Rock BLM Campground) contain ways used extensively for fishing and camping. There are also three miles of fence. About 30 acres appear to be unnatural, but the remainder of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The size and shape of the unit, and the confining nature of the topography in the east portion prohibit visitors from experiencing an outstanding opportunity for solitude anywhere in this unit.

Recreation: There are opportunities for fishing, camping, hunting, sightseeing, hiking, horseback riding, and other types of recreation. None of these activities could be experienced in a truly outstanding manner because of the limited diversity of topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitor to this area.

Supplemental Values: Raptor habitat exists along the basaltic cliffs of the Crooked River.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although most of this unit is essentially natural, outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit because of its small size, shape and confining nature of the topography in the eastern portions. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not available.

Unit Number: 5-20

Unit Name: Alkali Flat

Description

Size: 7,035 acres. An additional 480 acres contiguous to this unit are in the final stages of a state land exchange.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Prineville.

Boundaries: County roads form portions of the west boundary. Other portions are formed by private property. The south boundary is a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: Alkali Butte is the major landmark in this unit. Just north of the butte, the topography is relatively flat for about one mile. North of this area, the terrain consists of high rolling hills surrounding Deer Creek Canyon. South of Alkali Butte is an unnamed canyon extending in an east-west direction. Ponderosa pine grow in the upper portions of this shallow canyon, in the upper portion of Deer Creek Canyon, on Alkali Butte, and also in two areas northeast of Alkali Butte. The remaining portions are dominated by stands of juniper trees in various densities throughout the unit. The understory includes big sage, green rabbitbrush, bunchgrass, cheatgrass, and other plant species. The areas containing ponderosa pine trees have a more diversified number of understory plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: There are several small areas within this unit that have been altered by the works of man. There are three small juniper cutting areas, and five miles of ways in the northwest portion. There are also four and one-half miles of fence. The cumulative effect of these manmade improvements upon the overall primeval character of this unit was minimal because of the topographic and vegetative screening. Most of the juniper cutting areas are reverting back to a natural appearing condition. The remaining portions generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit in spite of the rugged topography in the northern third of this unit. Its very irregular shape and small size (one-fourth to three miles in width) prevent a visitor from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people within the same unit.

Recreation: There are several primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities available within this unit, such as hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. None of these activities are outstanding because there are no significant points of interest to attract visitors to this unit. The size, shape and physical attributes of this unit are not capable of providing an outstanding primitive and unconfined types of recreation experience.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The very irregular shape and small size of this unit restricts opportunities for solitude and for outstanding types of primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 5-21

Unit Name: Badlands

Revision of Unit Boundary: During the intensive inventory, two portions of the southern boundary were determined not to meet the wilderness road criteria. An additional 1,952 acres of public land were added to the unit.

Description

Size: This unit contains 33,172 acres. There are also 320 acres of private inholdings that are surrounded by public land.

Location: Approximately nine miles east of Bend.

Boundaries: The northern and southern boundaries are combinations of private property, a BLM road and a county (north boundary only) road. The western boundary is a combination of State Highway 20 and private property. The eastern boundary is a power company maintenance road.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of many rolling hills comprised of jagged dark reddish brown and black Columbia River Basalt outcroppings and escarpments. Light tan sand brought into this region by winds compliments a countless variety of small, irregularly shaped basins and valleys. The dominating feature is the dense western juniper forest which almost covers the entire area. The predominant understory plant species include big sage, grey and green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, squirreltail, needlegrass, phlox, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by the works of man. There are approximately 48 miles of ways, 19 miles of fence, an abandoned gravel pit, a wildlife guzzler, a stockwater pond, a naturally appearing flagstone mine, a previous BLM woodcutting area covering 3,160 acres located in the northeastern portion, and a large crested wheat seeding located in the southern portion. The 1,118-acre crested wheat seeding area and the stockwater pond (one acre in the extreme northeastern portion) contrast with the surrounding landscape and appear in an unnatural condition. The area also contains an old W.W. II aircraft bombing range. (No military ordinance was discovered during this inventory; however some ordinance could still exist.) The old BLM woodcutting area in the northeastern portion of this unit still retains its outstanding vegetative screening, and therefore prevents most of this juniper cutting area from dominating the landscape in any direction for a long distance. Many juniper trees still remain in this area. The area has an excellent chance of being rehabilitated to a naturally-appearing condition. The cumulative effect of the ways scattered throughout this unit, and the other manmade improvements upon the overall naturalness of this landscape is minimal. The majority of the ways within this unit are reverting back to a natural condition. The vegetative screening of the dense stands of juniper trees greatly restricts any visual contrasts between manmade improvements and the surrounding landscape.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available. The unit's size, shape, and outstanding vegetative screening would allow a visitor to easily avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors within this same unit.

Recreation: An outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational activity is possible to experience by hiking through this unit.

Supplemental Values: The combined features of old stands of western juniper trees and the geologic badlands formed from the reddish brown and black Columbia River Basalt are unique in the region.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 32,053 acres. Eliminate 1,119 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit contains outstanding opportunities for both solitude and recreation. Most of it appears to be in a generally natural condition. The acres proposed for elimination are unnatural and include a one-acre stock pond and a recent crested wheatgrass seeding that covers 1,118 acres.

Unit Number: 5-22

Unit Name: Dry River

Description

Size: 6,221 acres.

Location: One mile northwest of Millican.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary is a BLM road. The southern boundary is a combination of State Highway 20 and private property. The remaining boundaries are formed by BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The Dry River Canyon is found along the southern boundary. This canyon extends two and one-half miles in a northwest-southeast direction. The canyon was formed by the Dry River, whichdrained a large ice age lake that once occupied a large area east of Millican Valley. During periods of high water, this ancient lake spilled over a low pass along the eastern portion of Horse Ridge, and cut through the consolidated lava flows, forming this canyon. North of this canyon are two ridges divided by a shallow, elongated valley. These two ridges extend in a northwest-southeast direction.

Vegetation includes scattered clusters of juniper trees with Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, mountain mahogany, grey rabbitbrush, yarrow, an occasional ponderosa pine, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: A 62-acre area in the northwestern portion contains a network of ways and a large open gravel pit. In this area the effects of huan activities are substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit contains five and one-half miles of ways, three miles of fence, a small spring development, and a road totaling two and three-quarter miles in length. These disturbances do not dominate the landscape within this unit, because most of them are reverting back to a natural condition. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit for several reasons. Dry River Canyon is very confining. A visitor hiking through this canyon would not be able to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people also traveling through the canyon.

The majority of the remaining portions of this unit contain topography and vegetation that would not screen a visitor from the sights and sounds of other people. The small size further restricts visitors from avoiding each other within the unit.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreation are available within this unit, such as hiking, sightseeing, nature study, photography, and hunting. The physical and vegetative characteristics of this unit do not provide outstanding recreational opportunities because this unit contains a limited amount of diversity topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: The Dry River Canyon contains raptor nesting trees, a small stand of pine trees, archaeological values, and wildlife observation opportunities.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is generally in a natural condition, outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation are not available because of the size, shape, and confining topographic features.

Unit Number: 5-23

Unit Name: West Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 16,440 acres of public land. Three roads divide this unit into four subunits, three of which do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 648 to 1,379 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-23A

Description

Size: 13,650 acres.

Location: Four miles northeast of Millican.

Boundaries: The western boundary is a power company maintenance road. The southern boundary is a combination of the power company maintenance road, a BLM road, and private property. The eastern boundary consists of private property and two roads. The northern boundary is a combination of a BLM road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The West Butte Unit is an odd-shaped unit that resembles the letter "U". The majority of the public land is found along the lower and mid-elevation levels of the southwestern, western, and north-facing slopes of West Butte. The top of West Butte is privately owned. Elevations range from 3,500 feet in the northwest to 5,839 feet at the crest of West Butte. A series of canyons penetrate the northern, western, and southern portions of West Butte for relatively short distances. Western juniper trees cover almost all of the unit, but vary in density. The understory plant species within this unit include Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrass, cheatgrass, green rabbitbrush, and large quantities of big sage.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The presence of a road going down a steep slope of West Butte dominates the landscape of an area of more than 350 acres. In the southern portion of the unit approximately 450 acres are disturbed by two and one-half miles of water pipeline roads and from the impacts of brush control spraying approximately 220 acres.

There are also 12 miles of ways, two stockwater reservoirs, and a wildlife guzzler in other parts of the unit. In spite of these developments these portions of this unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit. The very confining shape of this unit and the open nature of the topography result in an environment where a visitor cannot avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within the unit. Although the juniper trees offer some screening, it is not adequate to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Camping, photography, nature study, and similar activities could all be experienced within this unit. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not possible because there is very little diversity of wildlife, vegetation, or topography within this unit. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Most of the unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because of the shape, topography and vegetation of the unit.

Unit Number: 5-31

Unit Name: North Fork

Description

Size: 11,080 acres of public land, with private inholdings of 560 acres.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the west and portions of the north and east sides, Forest Service land on parts of the north and private property on parts of the east and the south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains three major topographic features. The most predominant is the North Fork of the Crooked River Canyon. This narrow 800 to 900 foot deep canyon winds for about seven miles through the middle of the unit. Its basalt walls are almost vertical. The vegetation in the Crooked River Canyon is a combination of perennial shrubs and scattered clusters of pine trees.

The other topographic features are the steep-sloped rolling hills west of the Crooked River Canyon and the basalt flows east of the canyon. Many of the drainages dissecting the basalt flows to the east and the rolling hills to the west contain ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, juniper, a variety of shrubs and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: A way near the eastern boundary is substantially noticeable over an area of about 379 acres, and it has almost no potential to revert back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. There are also two reservoirs, 19 miles of primitive ways, one mile of road, and about 325 acres that were seeded to orchard grass and crested wheatgrass 20 years ago. The seeding was intended to rehabilitate an area that was burned by a lightning-caused fire. This seeded area now blends in with the surrounding landscape and has a natural appearance. The diverse topographic and vegetative screening effectively prevents the majority of the ways from dominating the landscape. Several ways east of the Crooked River Canyon are more dominant in their appearance upon the landscape. Practically all of these ways are capable of reverting back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. At the present time, these ways have very little influence on the wilderness values of the unit. The majority of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this unit. Although it is relatively small, there are many side canyons leading to the east and west of the Crooked River Canyon. A visitor would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within this unit because these side canyons contain ample topographic and vegetative screening. Once down in the Crooked River Canyon, the visitor is encompassed by an interesting variety of highly weathered basalt cliffs within a very secluded canyon that includes two waterfalls, and offers outstanding opportunities to observe nature's forces within an area generally untouched byman.

Recreation: There are outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities available within this unit, including photography, wildlife observation, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, and fishing. The diversity and physical challenge of the terrain, many points of interest and outstanding pristine scenery all contribute to providing truly outstanding recreational experiences.

Supplemental Vaules: There are excellent opportunities to study the geological, botanical, and zoological features within this unit. The basaltic cliffs contain habitat for raptors.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,701-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 379 acres on the eastern boundary because human works are substantially noticeable.

Rationale: This unit is basically natural, and can provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreational activities, such as hiking, camping, and fishing. The topography, vegetation, and the Crooked River combine to form an area where visitors can observe the forces of nature at work within areas that are still pristine.

Unit Number: 5-33

Unit Name: South Fork

Description

Size: 19,660 acres of public land, and 440 acres of private property inholdings.

Location: Approximately 19 miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern and southern boundaries are a combination of private property and BLM roads. The western boundary is a county road. The eastern boundary is a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: Three major topographic features dominate the South Fork Unit. First, the South Fork of the Crooked River flows in a south to north direction within a steep-walled Columbia River Basalt canyon for over six miles through this unit. The canyon is cut approximately 700 to 800 feet below Twelvemile Table Mesa. Second, the area east of the river is a relatively flat mesa called Twelvemile Table. This mesa provides miles of unobstructed views in every direction. Third, the area west of the South Fork of the Crooked River contains relatively flat to low rolling hills. The northwestern portion contains steeper topography, including Sulphur Butte. The predominant plant species includes low sage and Sandberg's bluegrass on the rocky tableland areas. On the north facing slopes, juniper trees, big sage, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber's needlegrass, and other plant species are found. The western portion of this unit contains relatively dense clusters of juniper trees. Small and isolated juniper trees grow on Twelvemile Table.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A wood pole powerline is substantially noticeable in a 27-acre area near the western boundary. In the northwestern portion of this unit, north of Sulphur Butte, there are two acres in wich human works are substantially noticeable.

There are ten constructed reservoirs (all have a water capacity less than one-acre/ft.), three bulldozed cattle ponds, ten miles of ways, and 16 miles of fence in the unit. Several mining claims are recorded in the northwestern portion of this unit.

Three small areas were sprayed and seeded with crested wheatgrass and four-wing saltbrush. The cumulative effect of all the manmade improvements on the landscape is minimal because of the size of the unit, the topographic and vegetative screening and the high potential for many of these improvements to revert back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. Many of these developments (such as the reservoirs), blend in well with their surrounding environments and do not dominate the landscape.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this unit because of the size, shape, and topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available within this unit. Backpacking, camping, photography, nature study, hunting, fishing for carp, and horseback riding are all possible. One of the outstanding recreational activities is a hike along the bottom of the South Fork of the Crooked River Canyon. Once a visitor is down by the river, the feeling of being alone and engulfed by the vastness of the canyon is strong. The geologic formations within this canyon are impressive. The Crooked River has eroded through approximately 700 to 800 feet of basalt exposing numerous combinations of reddish-tan, dark brown, and black columns. These formations add to the scenic beauty and diversity. The canyon twists and turns, never exposing itself all at once. Several side canyons such as Pickett Canyon, also enhance the opportunity to hike and explore.

Supplemental Values: The Crooked River Canyon contains interesting Columbia River Basalt formations. This unit also is habitat for raptors.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 19,631-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 29 acres in which human works are substantially noticeable.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of human activities and apppears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The canyon of the South Fork of the Crooked River offers a variety of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The imprints of human work are substantially noticeable in the area proposed for elimination from further wilderness review.

Unit Number: 5-34

Unit Name: Sand Hollow

Description

Size: 8,820 acres.

Location: The unit is approximately 21 miles north-northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western and southern boundaries are county roads. The northern and eastern boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is a combination of low rolling hills interlaced with higher rolling hills that extend in an east-west direction, forming part of the Steens Ridge. There is a relatively open desert plateau in the central portions of the unit. The western and northern portions are characterized by rugged, dark brown Columbia River Basalt escarpments. Different sizes and densities of juniper trees are scattered throughout this unit. The understory plant species include low and big sage, green and grey rabbitbrush, lupine, snowberry, Idaho fescue, Sandberg's Bluegrass, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: There are several areas within this unit where human works dominate the landscape. A crested wheatgrass seeding is substantially noticeable in a 26-acre area near the western boundary. In the northern portion a road and a constructed way which is no longer maintained dominate the landscape in two-acre area. A constructed reservoir located in the eastern portion of this unit is also substantially noticeable.

There are other constructed reservoirs, two bulldozed cattle ponds, three miles of ways, and seven miles of fence in the unit. The cumulative effect of these developments on the landscape is minimal because of the topographic relief and vegetative screening provided by the juniper trees. The impacts of these developments are generally noticeable only within a short distance of their location, and do not dominate the landscape.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this unit because the topographic relief and the vegetative screening of the juniper trees provide an environment where a visitor could avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within this same area.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available. Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, hunting, photography, and nature study. However, opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because of the limited diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 8,791-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 29 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is basically natural, and possesses the topographic relief and vegetative screening capabilities necessary for visitors to avoid one another within this same unit. The lands eliminated from further review contain developments which are substantially noticeable.

Unit Number: 5-35

Unit Name: Gerry Mountain

Description

Size: 21,840 acres of public land; 640 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 15 miles north-northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are county roads. The western boundary is a combination of a road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is relatively square-shaped and contains Gerry Mountain, Moon Mountain and Mule Point. Gerry Mountain is a major topographic feature, rising 1,100 feet above the surrounding terrain to an elevation of 5,200 feet. Excellent scenic vistas are available in all directions from this butte-shaped mountain. Surrounding Gerry Mountain and the other two smaller hills are a variety of low rolling hills and small, enclosed basins. The northern, western, and central portions contain stands of juniper trees.

The northeastern portion is relatively flat with a few clusters of juniper trees. The understory plant species include big sage, green rabbitbrush, lupine, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Approximately 572 acres in the northern and eastern portions. The majority of this acreage appears essentially unnatural because of a wood pole powerline located west of and parallel to, the eastern boundary. An apparently active mining area, one reservoir, and a road are also substantially noticeable in this area.

About 1,200 acres in the valleys of the eastern portion of this unit were once seeded with crested wheat-grass. The invasion of big sage, green rabbitbrush, lupine, and other plants over the years has transformed this area into essentially natural-appearing valleys. There are also 11 reservoirs, 12 miles of ways, and 24 miles of fence. The visual impact of the reservoirs and ways is generally restricted to a small area around them. Several ways and reservoirs are progressing toward

blending in with their surrounding environment. Other ways and reservoirs and ways are still quite apparent. In general, however, the majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in this unit. A large portion of the unit has sufficient topographic relief and vegetative screening for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors. The size and shape of most of the unit also contribute to the outstanding opportunities for solitude. One exception is where irregular projections of public land would confine visitory to narrow corridors.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities could be experienced, such as hiking, hunting, nature study, and camping. None of the opportunities for these activities would be outstanding because this unit contains limited diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife. Gerry Mountain is a point of interest within this unit, but it isn't a unique or a peerless topographic feature.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 20,703-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,137 acres from further wilderness review because they do not have wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: Only a small portion of this unit has been altered by the works of man. The remaining portions of the unit contain human developments which are not substantially noticeable. The large size and shape and the topographic and vegetative screening result in an area which has outstanding opportunities for solitude. In the areas proposed for exclusion the imprints of human work are substantially noticeable in 572 acres. Opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are not outstanding in 565 acres because of the narrow configuration of, and restricted access to, the narrow projections.

Unit Number: 5-36

Unit Name: Redman Rim

Revision of Unit Boundary: During the intensive inventory of this unit, part of the eastern boundary was found to be a way. As a result an additional 5,617 acres was added to this unit.

Description

Size: 12,823 acres of public land.

Location: 13 miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property. The western boundary is private property. The southern and eastern boundaries are formed by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The most dominant topographic feature is Redman Rim. It is approximately one and one-half miles long and up to one and one-fourth mile wide. It rises approximately 1,000 feet above the surrounding landscape and is rimmed with dark brown Columbia River Basalt escarpments and outcroppings. The slopes that extend in all directions away from Redman Rim contain 80 to 90 degree slopes. The top of the rim is relatively flat, and there are clusters of juniper trees scattered on its sides and top. Ibex Butte is located a short distance southeast of Redman Rim, and is also a distinguishing landmark. It rises approximately 650 feet and is shaped like a pyramid. The topography in the remaining portions

consists of several gradually sloping basins and high rolling hills that generally slope either to the north and south. Within these shallow basins are clusters of juniper trees, especially in the mid-northern portion. There are also two small canyons. The vegetation includes clusters of juniper trees, big sage, low sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and a variety of other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Several areas have been affected by human developments. In the extreme southwestern portion, 565 acres were seeded with crested wheatgrass; this area is very unnatural in appearance. There are six bulldozed cattle ponds, ten miles of ways, and six miles of fence. The cumulative effect of these developments upon the overall primeval character ofthe landscape is minimal. The majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because the topographic relief and vegetation do not provide effective screening that would enable a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the unit.

Recreation: Primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, camping, nature study, wildlife observation, hunting, and photography are available within this unit. Opportunities for these recreational activities, however, would not be outstanding because the topography, vegetation, and wildlife in this unit are not diverse. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is esentially natural, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 5-40

Unit Name: Sears Creek

Description

Size: 11,980 acres.

Location: 12 miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern and western boundaries are a combination of a BLM road and private property. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private and state land. The southern boundary is a road.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of relatively low, rolling hills that are often dissected by deep drainages usually sloping to the south. The southeastern portion contains a gradually sloping basin. The topography in the northeastern and southwestern portions is more varied with several small ravines and hills. Local relief is greater than in the southeastern portion. This unit also contains a canyon that extends in a east-west direction for one and one-half miles. It is approximately 160 feet deep and is rimmed with reddish brown Columbia River Basalt. The water flow within this small canyon is intermittent.

The vegetation is dominated by dense clusters of juniper trees in the northeastern and southwestern portions. Other areas contain scattered clusters of juniper trees. The predominant understory plant species are big

sage, rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, snakeweed, and annual forbs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: A wooden pole powerline bisects this unit in an east-west direction. There are also 11 miles of ways, eight constructed reservoirs, and eight miles of fence. These intrusions dominate the landscape, especially the utility powerline, ways, and the constructed reservoirs in the central portions of the unit. The imprint of man is substantially noticeable in the mid-portion, while the southwestern and northeastern portions generally remain in a natural condition.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit. There is only a limited amount of topographic and vegetative screening, making it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. The canyon in the southern portion also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude because its short length (one and one-half miles) and confining topographic features restrict any attempts by visitors to avoid each other.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. Opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because there are no significant or unique points of interest in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The quality of naturalness within this unit has been degraded by numerous developments. The topographic and vegetative screening do not provide opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-42

Unit Name: Hampton Butte

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the Intensive Inventory, the southwestern boundary of 5-42 was found to be a way. Therefore, 5-41 was combined with Unit 5-42. Unit 5-42 now contains 12,340 acres. A road was found in the northwestern portion forming a subunit containing 1,740 acres. This subunit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-42A

Description

Size: 10,600 acres; 300 acres of private inholdings.

Location: One mile north of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a combination of private property and a road. The eastern boundary is private property. The southern and western boundaries are a combination of private property and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains a series of foothills rising to a rugged Columbia River Basalt rim. This rim forms the edge of a relatively flat plateau approximately 600 acres in size. The buttes are part

of the scenic Hampton Buttes. The northern half of this unit contains smaller plateaus, rolling hills, and a shallow canyon that extends in a northeast-southwest direction for two miles. Dense stands of juniper trees dominate the southern half of this unit and are also scattered along the steep-sloped hills and in several ravines. The dominant understory plant species include big sage, green rabbitbrush, low sage, and bitterbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: There are a number of developments in this unit. The majority of these improvements, however, are reverting back to a natural condition. There are three miles of ways, a one-mile water pipeline road and three miles of fence. The topography and vegetative screening is sufficient to reduce the visual impact of these improvements upon the landscape. The majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude with its diverse terrain and dense stands of juniper trees. These features provide effective screening, allowing ample opportunities for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors. A 120-acre section of the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its narrow configuration.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, hunting, and photography. There is some topographic diversity, and there are opportunities for challenge, and several points of interest to attract visitors to this unit. These recreational opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,480-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 120 acres in narrow projections from the main body of the unit.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is essentially natural and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Its diverse topography and dense vegetation offer outstnding opprortunities for solitude. The excluded portion has a narrow, irregular configuration which lacks outstnding opportunities for solitude or for unconfined recreational activities.

Unit Number: 5-43

Unit Name: Cougar Well

Description

Size: 17,315 acres of public land. There are 1,040 acres of private inholdings and 1,120 acres of state inholdings. The state inholdings now are in the process of being exchanged with BLM.

Location: Four miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western boundary is BLM road. The southern boundary is a combination of a BLM water pipeline maintenance road and a power company maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property. The northern boundary is a combination of a BLM road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: There are several different topographic features in this unit. The eastern half contains a very large area with little local relief that slopes gradually up to the west. There is also a small canyon extending ina north-south direction bisecting this area. At the west edge of this gradually sloping area, low rolling foothills join a very large butte west of Cougar Well. This butte forms a portion of the Hampton Buttes. The eastern flank of this butte rises sharply to the west. Once at the crest of this butte the western flank drops sharply to the west, forming a small secluded valley. Big sage, green rabbitbrush, low sage, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue are the dominant understory plant species. Dense stands of juniper trees grow on the rolling hills and scattered trees grow on the large butte west of Cougar Well.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Approximately nine acres do not appear to be natural because of a road extending from the eastern boundary to Cougar Well and a BLM water pipeline maintenance road extending two miles east of the southern boundary. There are also 18 miles of ways, one mile of water pipeline ways, six miles of fence, and three constructed cattle ponds. The cumulative effect of these developments is not particularly intrusive because many of them are rapidly reverting back to a natural condition. The topography and vegetative screening of this unit is also sufficient to reduce the visual impact of the developments. The majority of this unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in this unit. The diversity of terrain and the size of this unit would allow a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. In addition, several large areas in the unit contain dense stands of juniper trees which provide effective screening. There are approximately 280 acres in narrow configurations which do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Hiking, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and nature study can all be enjoyed within this unit. There is some diversity of terrain, and vegetation, and there are several scenic vistas from the butte west of Cougar Well. The physical attributes of this unit attract visitors to the unit at the present time. However, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because the terrain, vegetation, and wildlife are not markedly different from that elsewhere in the region.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 17,026-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 280 acres which lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation and nine acres which are not natural.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area contains a large high desert plain, large mountains, buttes and a secluded valley. It also contains portions that are very scenic. It is generally natural, appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, and offers outstanding opportunities to experience solitude. Several portions are excluded because they lack either naturalness or outstnding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation because of configuration.

Unit Number: 5-46

Unit Name: Hampton

Description

Size: 8,650 acres.

Location: Five miles east of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a power company maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a county road. The western and southern boundaries are BLM water pipeline roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is divided into two portions by a ridge of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt extending in a north-south direction for approximately four miles. The area to the east of this ridge contains low rolling hills and a desert plain gradually sloping downward to the east. The vegetation in this area is dominated by big sage, with green rabbitbrush, snakeweed, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and occassionally a juniper tree. The vegetation in the western portion of this unit is very similar, but also includes bitterbrush and elymas. The topography within thisarea contains low rolling hills sloping downward into the unit, forming a shallow valley. There are also a few small Columbia River Basalt escarpments located in the northwestern portion of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several areas contain substantially noticeable developments. There is a constructed cattle pond in the southeastern portion and a constructed reservoir in the northwestern portion. Some of the brush in the southern portion was sprayed, but the project area looks natural to a visitor unfamiliar with range management practices. There are six miles of ways, two miles of fence, and a wildlife guzzler located within the boundaries of this unit. The cumulative effect of these developments is not sufficient to degrade the generally natural condition of the majority of the unit.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit. The size of the unit, the overall lack of topographic relief and the lack of vegetative screening make it highly unlikely that a visitor to this area could avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: Sightseeing, rock collecting, photography, and hiking opportunities are available within this unit. None of these recreational activities however, could be experienced in an outstanding manner, because this unit contains limited diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is basically natural, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation because of its size and the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening.

Unit Number: 5-47

Unit Name: Stockpile

Description

Size: 8,300 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre State inholding within the unit.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western and eastern boundaries are county roads. The northern boundary is a power company maintenance road. The southern boundary is State Highway 20.

Physical Characteristics: The topography in the western portion includes low rolling hills that slope downward to the east. The central portion contains a dry river bed extending in a northwest-southeast direction. Reddish brown outcroppings of Columbia River Basalt border parts of this dry river. The east portion also contains a dry river bed extending in an east-west direction and joining the river bed in the central portion. The dominant vegetation is by big sagebrush; other plants include rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and several juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Two portions of this unit have been altered by man and no longer remain in a natural condition. A crested wheat field in the extreme northwestern portion contains 49 acres. Another area in the mid-southern portion contains a State highway material site (one acre). The material site and the crested wheat field are unnatural in appearance and contrast with their surrounding environments. There are also five miles of ways and three miles of fence in this unit. These developments do not dominate the landscape. The majority of this unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist within this unit. The relatively small size of this unit and the overall lack of topographic and vegetative screening do not provide opportunities for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: Opportunities exist for hunting, hiking, and rock collecting. None of these activities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because there is no diverstiy in topography, vegetation, or wildlife. The physical characteristics of this unit would not attract visitors.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is basically natural, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not available.

Unit Number: 5-49

Unit Name: Hemstad

Description

Size: 15,553 acres.

Location: Eight miles southwest of Brothers.

Boundaries: Portions of the western and eastern boundaries are formed by county and BLM roads. The remaining boundaries are private property or national forest land.

Physical Characteristics: The northern half is a desert plain with low rolling hills and an occasional basalt outcropping. The topography in the southern half is also relatively flat but contains higher rolling hills and more distinctive basalt outcroppings. The vegetation is dominated by big

sage and green rabbitbrush, but bitterbrush, current, low sage, and isolated juniper trees are also found. Dense stands of ponderosa pine occupy the extreme mid-western portions.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Several major portions of this unit have been altered by man. 500 acres in the northern portion burned at one time. This burned area has been reseeded and looks very unnatural. 235 acres in the mid-western portion contain a network of ways, a well and related facilities, a bulldozed water pond, three miles of fence, and a wildlife guzzler. The cumulative effect of these developments is dominant and degrading. The overall character of the landscape no longer generally appears affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit because of the overall lack of either topographic or vegetative screening.

Recreation: There are opportunities to experience camping, hiking, and photography. However, none of these primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because there are no distinguishing points of interest within this unit. There is a limited amount of topographic, vegetative, and wildlife diversity, and no features within this unit that would attract a person to visit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This area no longer remains in a natural condition, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 5-50

Unit Name: Whiskey Springs

Description

Size: 6,792 acres.

Location: Approximately seven miles southwest of Brothers.

Boundaries: All of the western, and part of the southern boundaries are a power company maintenance road. The remaining boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This triangular shaped area containes very little topographic relief. The northeastern portion does contain a low plateau that rises about 20 to 30 feet. The central and eastern portions contain small rolling hills and small plateaus that gradually slope in all directions. The vegetation is dominated by big and low sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, Stipa, squirreltail, buckwheat, and bitterbrush. Four juniper trees and one apparently dead pine tree were found in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several portions of this unit where the primeval character of the landscape has been altered by developments. Seven miles of ways extend across the unit. The unit also contains seven miles of fence, a developed spring (Whiskey Spring), and a bulldozed cattle watering

pond. The ways and fences dominate the landscape due to the lack of topographic relief and no vegetative screening. The light color of the soil also highlights contrasts between the altered and natural portions of the landscape. For these reasons this unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available because of the lack of topographic relief, no vegetative screening, and the small size of this unit.

Recreation: Camping, photography, and nature study could all be experienced within this unit. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not available because there is very little diversity of terrain within this unit. There are no points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit is not natural in many portions and it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-51

Unit Name: Twin Pines

Description

Size: 12,600 acres of public land. There are 480 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Two miles south of Brothers.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is private property. The western, southern, and eastern boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The shape of this unit is irregular because of the private inholdings. The western portion (Skull Hill) contains Pine Ridge, made up of several rolling hills and one large one sloping upward to the south. East of Pine Ridge, the topography is relatively flat, then rises sharply to the north to a plateau. Vegetation includes an isolated colony of juniper trees along the southern flank of Pine Ridge, big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, and other plant species. The southeastern portion of the unit contains an isolated stand of about 70 ponderosa pine trees located north of a basalt plateau that rises and parallels the southern boundary road. The northeastern portion contains Settlemeyer Ridge, which rises about 150 feet and runs in a east-west direction. Isolated clusters of Columbia River Basalt can be found along this ridge. The vegetation is the same as described in the western portion except there are very few juniper trees in this portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Many portions of this unit have been altered by the works of man. Two fire rehabilitative seedings are contained within this unit. These areas are still evident and dominate the landscape for a short distance. There are 19 miles of ways, nine miles of fence, two miles of road, and five contructed cattle watering ponds. The cumulative effect of these developments is such that the works of man are substantially noticeable throughout this unit.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit. The lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening make it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. The shape of this unit, private inholdings, and numerous developments all limit the opportunities for experiencing solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for camping, hiking, and photography. None of these opportunities are outstanding because there is also a limited amount of diversity of topography, vegetation, wildlife, and there are no unique features within this unit that would attract a visitor.

Supplemental Values: The isolated colony of pine trees in the southeastern portion of this unit is a supplemental value. This relatively small stand of pine trees represents a remnant of a forest that once extended from the forested hills west of this unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit contains many portions where works of man dominate the landscape. This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation because of the lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Unit Number: 5-52

Unit Name: Dickerson Well

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 9,040 acres of public land. During the intensive inventory a road was found in the northwestern corner. The road creates two subunits, one of which has only 170 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-52A

Description

Size: 8,870 acres.

Location: 10 miles southwest of Brothers.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary is a power company maintenance road and private property. The northern, western, and southern boundaries are BLM or county roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is relatively flat. The northern and mid-portions contain flat plains, and occasionally low rolling hills. The southern portion includes a small hill that rises approximately 375 feet above the low rolling hills and desert plains. The vegetation in most of this unit is dominated by big and low sage, with green rabbitbrush, bunchgrasses, and occasional small clusters of juniper trees. A small stand of juniper trees dominates the landscape in the southeastern portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There were two main areas where the works of man dominate the landscape. A bulldozed cattle pond is located in the northeastern portion, and two bulldozed cattle ponds are located in the southeastern portion. Their influence upon the surrounding environment is generally limited to a one-fourth mile radius. There are also nine miles of

ways and one mile of fence in the unit. The other parts of this unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit because the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening would make it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. The size of this unit further restricts oportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for camping, hiking, and photography. None of these primitive and unconfined recreational activities, could be experienced in an outstanding manner because there are no distinguishing points of interest within this unit. There is little diversity of topography, vegetation, or wildlife, and there are no features within this unit that would attract a person to visit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area is generally natural. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 5-53

Unit Name: Two Post Lake

Description

Size: 11,545 acres.

Location: Seven miles south of Brothers.

Boundaries: All boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains some topographic and vegetative diversity within its boundaries. The most prominent topographic feature is a narrow ridge located in the middle of the unit, containing irregular and blocky outcroppings of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt. This ridge rises from 20 to 170 feet above the low, rolling hills surrounding the ridge. There are also several small rolling hills in the mid-northern portion. A large area with little local relief slopes from the ridge downward to the north. The topography in the south portion also consists of a large, gradually sloped area extending south from the low basaltic ridge in the middle of this unit. There is very little topographic relief in this portion of the unit. The vegetation is dominated by big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, several bunchgrass species, a few juniper trees, and other plant species. There is also a small colony of pine trees in the northwestern portion that extends west into unit 5-51. This small stand of about 20 trees was once part of a forest that extended from the western mountain flanks of the present Deschutes National Forest, eastward into the high desert.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several portions of this unit that have been altered by man and his works. The northwestern portion contains a 50-acre area of crested wheatgrass and other bunch grass species. The area is presently dominated by green rabbitbrush. This area sharply contrasts with the surrounding vegetation and is very unnatural in its appearance. There are also 28 miles of ways, six miles of fence, and four bulldozed cattle watering ponds. None of these human developments individually dominate the landscape for any great distance. However, the cumulative effect of all

these developments is that the area does not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This unit does not offer otstanding opportunities for solitude because the lack of sufficient topographic relief and vegetative screening means that a visitor cannot avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature and botanical study. None of these primitive and unconfined types of recreation could be experienced in an outstanding manner. The physical attributes of this unit would not attract visitors to this area; there are no points of interest (except the pine trees in the northwest portion); and there is very little diversity of topography.

Supplemental Values: The isolated colony of pine trees located in the southeastern portion of this unit is a supplemental value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit contains many portions where man and his own works dominate the landscape. This unit also lacks sufficient topographic and vegetative screening to offer either outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-55

Unit Name: Lone Pine

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory a portion of the southern boundary was found to be a way. An additional 315 acres was added to this unit.

Description

Size: 17,175 acres of public land. There are 800 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately four miles southeast of Brothers.

Boundaries: The southern boundary is a BLM road. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property. The northern and western boundaries are a combination of BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The topography in the western and central portions of this unit is dominated by a variety of small reddish brown Columbia River Basalt escarpments surrounded by low rolling hills and small basins. A small basalt plateau extends west from the northeastern portion of this unit and contains a small stand of juniper trees. The topography in the southern half of this unit is relatively flat with very little topographic relief. The vegetation in the very southern and southeastern portions is dominated by old stands of juniper trees. The understory plant species include big and low sage, green rabbitbrush, and Idaho fescue. The northern half is dominated by big sage, green rabbitbrush and western needlegrass. Isolated clusters of juniper trees are located in the extreme northern and the mid-eastern poritons of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by human activities. 280 acres in the extreme northeastern portion of this unit were sprayed at one time. Forty acres still appear to be unnatural in

appearance. 173 acres in this same area appear natural because of a one and one-half mile long stockwater pipeline. Two bulldozed cattle ponds and a way dominate the landscape in the extreme mid-southern portion of the unit. Twenty-nine miles of ways were also found within this unit. None of these ways dominated the landscape because the low, rolling hills and sagebrush screen them from view except when directly in line with them. Many of these ways are rapidly reverting back to a natural condition. Ten miles of fence and a wildlife guzzler are also located. The cumulative effect of these manmade improvements upon the overall primeval character of the landscape is minimal, and much of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit. There is a lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening that would enable a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the unit. In addition, the 800 acres of private land within this unit could tend to confine visitors attempting to avoid one another.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available within this unit, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. None of these recreational opporatunities is outstanding because there is a limited amount of diversity in the topography, vegetation and wildlife of this unit. There is no feature that is significant enough to attract visitors to this unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is generally natural in its appearance, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 5-56

Unit Name: Fredrick Butte

Description

Size: 8,380 acres of public land. There are 320 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately 11 miles south of Brothers.

Boundaries: The northern, southern, and western boundaries are a combination of BLM roads and private property. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is dominated by several steep-sloped hills and buttes that extend in an east-west direction. Fredrick Butte rises several hundred feet above the surrounding terrain, and contains dark brown and grey Columbia River Basalt. The topography changes rapidly just west of Fredrick Butte. A large desert plain is located southwest of Fredrick Butte. Directly west of Fredrick Butte, a small valley and then several steeply sloped hills extend to the west. Solder Cap Butte is the furthest west. A large enclosed valley is located just east of Solder Cap Butte. The majority of this valley is privately owned.

A variety of vegetation is found on Fredrick Butte, the surrounding hills, and in the valley. It is dominated by dense stands of large, old juniper trees. The northern facing slope also contains clusters of mountain mahogany. Clusters of juniper trees grow in the hills west of Fredrick Butte, generally on the southern facing slopes. In the higher elevations,

lupine, yarrow, snowberry, bitterbrush, and currant grow. The dominant understory plant species include big sage, low sage, green rabbitbrush, and Idaho fescue. North of Solder Cap Butte, the topography is low rolling hills generally sloping in a north-south direction. Stands of old juniper trees dominate the vegetation of this area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions within this unit have been altered by man, but most of these developments do not dominate the landscape. There are 12 miles of ways, four bulldozed cattle ponds, a road leading to private property and a small fenced area (40′ x 40′) in the extreme southeastern portion. There are also a small number of cut juniper trees in the eastern half of this unit. These developments do not seriously degrade the landscape and it appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the overall lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening. In addition the topography tends to concentrate visitors to an area west of Fredrick Butte where the vegetation does not offer the screening necessary for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors. Likewise, the low rolling hills north of Solder Cap Butte are confining in size and shape and prevent visitors from avoiding each other in this area. The private property found within this unit may also tend to confine visitors to one area.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available within this unit, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. None of these recreational activities opportunities is outstanding because there is a limited amount of diversity in the topography, vegetation, and wildlife, and there doesn't appear to be any unique feature that is significant enough to attract visitors.

Supplemental Values: The old stand of juniper trees on Fredrick Butte could be important to study at some time.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The overall lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening in combination with a private inholding precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation within this unit.

Unit Number: 5-59

Unit Name: Grassy Lake

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory, the eastern boundary was determined to be a way. A portion of the southern boundary of 5-60 (from Hayes Spring east two and one-half miles) was also determined to be a road. As a result Units 5-60 and 5-66 and now part of 5-59.

Description

Size: 24,337 acres of public land. There are 40 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately eight miles southeast of Brothers.

Boundaries: The western boundary is a combination of county and BLM roads. The remaining boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is relatively flat, sloping gradually to the south, north, and to the east. The predominant vegetation in the northern and central portions is the stands of juniper trees, which are scattered in fairly uniform numbers in these regions. The topography is very flat in the extreme southeastern portion of this unit, south of Hayes Spring. There, the juniper trees are more isolated and gradually give way to low and big sage, which are the predominant understory plant species. Big sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, and other associated plant species dominate the understory plant species in the northern and central portions. The vegetation on the 700-acre dry lakebed in the southeastern portion of this unit is dominated by silver sage. A variety of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt formations add to the scenic beauty of this landscape. Ram Lake is a large lake that often contains water and is partly surrounded by a small basaltic wall. Several other smaller dry lakebeds are located in the unit. A large lakebed is located in the southern portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions have been altered by the works of man. There are 25 miles of ways that are in the process of reverting back to a natural condition. This includes a way that extends in an east-west direction along the Deschutes and Lake County line that is listed as a public access road under revised statute 2477. Although constructed at one point in time, this way has not been maintained and does not appear to be relatively regularly used. There are eight bulldozed cattle ponds. All but two cattle ponds blend into their surrounding environment. There are also fifteen miles of fence within this unit. A utility powerline cuts across the unit along the former eastern boundary line of Unit 5-59.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit, because the lack of topographic relief, the shape of this unit, and the lack of vegetative screening make it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and other types of primitive and unconfined recreation available within this unit. None of these oportunities are outstanding because there is no significant point of interest to attract visitors, and there is only a limited amount diversity of vegetation and topography.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although this unit is basically natural, topographic and vegetative characteristics, combined with the size and shape of this unit, preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Unit Number: 5-63

Unit Name: Stud Horse Butte

Description

Size: 16,504 acres.

Location: Eight miles south of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western boundary is formed by a BLM road. All other boundaries are formed by a combination of private property and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Several different topographic features characterize this area. The eastern portion contains relatively flat land, low rolling hills, small basins, valleys, and shallow sloping bajadas. The central portion contains Stud Horse Butte, the most predominant landmark found in this unit. It rises 200 to 300 feet above the surrounding terrain. Low rolling hills, small desert basins, and small walls of Columbia River Basalt are also found in this portion. In the western portion, there are higher rolling hills and larger basins. Juniper trees are more appaarent in the western and central portions. Big sage is the dominant understory plant and it occurs along with green rabbitbrush, lupine, Sandberg's bluegrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several portions of the landscape within this unit that have been altered by the works of man. A 25-foot water tank is located just south of Parmele Well, and there are several wooden fences and a pump house just south of Browns Well. A road extends around a bulldozed cattle watering pond. These developments are all substantially noticeable. In addition there are four bulldozed cattle watering ponds, ten miles of ways, seven miles of fence, one mile of buried water pipeline, and three small metal watertanks. The cumulative effect of these human works upon the overall naturalness of this unit is minimal. Most of these ways, water pipelines ways, and ponds are rapidly reverting back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit because the extremely irregular shape, combined with very little topographic and vegetative screening, make it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities are available within this unit, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. None of these recreational activities, however, can be experienced in an outstanding manner because there is a limited amount of diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife and there doesn't appear to be any feature that is significant enough to attract visitors to this unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Even though this unit is basically natural, its shape, size, and other attributes do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-64

Unit Name: Glass Butte

Description

Size: 10,911 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of private inholdings and 640 acres of state inholdings.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a combination of private property and State Highway 20. The remaining boundaries are formed by a combination of BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant topographic feature of this unit is a pyramid-shaped land mark named Glass Butte. This butte rises to an elevation of 6385 feet, and is surrounded by several different topographic features. The northwestern and eastern portions of this unit contain several side canyons extending from Glass Butte that form steep-sloped valleys and low rolling hills containing clusters of juniper trees, mountain mahogany, willows, big sage, green rabbitbrush, and other plant species. Massive reddish brown and grey basaltic outcroppings and boulders are irregularly scattered on these slopes. A series of lower rolling hills lie below the western and southern slopes of Glass Butte. These rolling hills contain stands of juniper trees. The southern portions also contains several small canyons extending in a north-south direction. The dominant plant species in this portion of the unit are juniper trees, big sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, and bluebunch wheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by the works of man. A road extends west from the eastern portion of this unit to the crest of Glass Butte. A microwave relay tower and concrete building are located on this point. A wooden pole powerline extends west from the eastern boundary road relatively close to the microwave concrete building. The developments listed above have an essentially unnatural appearance that contrasts with the surrounding landscapes. There are also 17 miles of ways, 12 miles of fence, six reservoirs, and two cattle watering troughs. None of these features dominate a large portion of the landscape. Although the topographic and vegetative screening capabilities of this unit are limited, they help to reduce the cumulative effects of the human works the natural landscape within this unit. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit because its irregular shape and the private and state inholdings confine a visitor to small areas where it would not be possible to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and nature study. None of these recreational opportunities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because activities would be greatly restricted by the private and state inholdings.

Supplemental Values: Obsidian (a dark colored natural glass formed by the cooling of molten lava) can be found in most portions of this unit. Many years ago, Indians traveled for miles to gather this obsidian to make arrowheads and other tools. Today, this area is well known to rock collectors living in the western United States.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the majority of this unit remains in a natural condition, the extensive private and state inholdings, combined with sparse topographic and vegetative screening, form a unit that provides only limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-65

Unit Name: Round Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundary: During the intensive inventory a portion of the northern boundary was determined to be a way. An additional 1,280 acres were added to the unit. The unit contains a total of 20,080 acres. The unit is divided by a road into two subunits, one of which contains 4,015 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-65A

Description

Size: 16,065 acres.

Location: Approximately 13 miles southeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: Boundaries are formed by a combination of BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The most distinguishing topographic feature within this unit is Round Mountain. This steep-sloped mountain is located in the northwestern portion and includes a large variety of dark brown Columbia River Basalt formations, especially on the northern slopes. Several small foothills and ravines surround this mountain. Dense stands of juniper trees dominate the landscape, with an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush (generally rare), bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and aspen (very rare). Except for a smaller mountain southeast of Round Mountain, the topography in the remaining portions of this unit consist of low rolling hills and relatively flat desert plains. Occasionally there is a small basalt butte. A dry river bed runs east-west in the mid portion of the unit. Big sage dominates the vegetative community, with green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush (occasionally), Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, a few dispersed clusters of juniper trees, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments have modified the landscape in several portions of this unit. A wood pole powerline cuts across the unit in several places, and one area has a network of ways. These areas are not essentially natural. In addition, there are five constructed reservoirs, 13 miles of ways, two miles of road, ten miles of fence, and an old crested wheatgrass seeding in the very southern portion of this unit. Several mining claims within this unit are also recorded with the BLM Prineville District. An old bulldozed fire break road and a change in the vegetative community indicate 40 acres along the northern boundary may have been burned at one time. The cumulative effect of these developments upon the overall character of the landscape is moderate. The size of this unit, the topographic relief, and the vegetative screening reduce the magnitude and visual impact of the developments. Although the landscape has been degraded to a small degree, the majority of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available because the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening prevents a visitor from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people within the unit.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, sightseeing, and photography within this unit. None of these opportunities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because the topography, vegetation, and wildlife are not diverse. The only unique point of interest is the scattered clusters of obsidian. Practically all of the obsidian locations contain ways.

Supplemental Values: The obsidian (a dark colored natural glass that is formed by the cooling of molten lava) found within this unit is a supplemental value. Many years ago, Indians traveled for many miles to obtain obsidian for making tools and weapons. Today, this area is a well known and active area for rock collectors.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The majority of this unit generally remains in a natural condition. The overall lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening means that opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation are not outstanding.

Island Numbers: 5-68, 69, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, and 83.

Island Names: Steamboat, Eagle Butte, Kimberly, Service Creek, Key, Gull, Lion, Nomanisa, and Fantasy Islands.

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: During the intensive inventory, Units 5-77, 5-78, 5-80, and 5-81 were found to be sandbars and not islands. They are no longer wilderness island inventory units and are not described below.

Description

Size: The islands vary from one-fourth to two and one-half acres.

Location: 5-68 and 5-69 are located in the Deschutes River; 5-76, 82 and 83 are located in the John Day River.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness, Solitude and Recreation: The islands generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and confined types of recreation are not available on any of these islands. It is not possible for a visitor to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors on any of these islands due to the lack of topographic relief and adequate vegetative screening. None of these islands contain any points of interest or topographic diversity. Islands 5-68, 69, 82, and 83 do contain some diversity in vegetation and wildlife, but these qualities are not outstanding.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate Units 5-68, 69, 76, 77, 80, 81, 82, and 83 from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of these units have wilderness characteristics. Units 5-68, 69, 76, 82 and 83 do not offer outstainding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Units 5-77, 78, 80 and 81 are not islands and are not part of any units which meet the minimum size criteria.

BAKER DISTRICT

Unit Number: 6-1

Unit Name: McGraw Creek

Description

Size: 1,900 acres.

Location: Approximately 75 miles northeast of Baker.

Boundaries: The unit is bordered by Forest Service land on the north and northwest, the Hells Canyon Reservoir road to the east, and private land and the Hess Road to the south and southwest. The adjoining Forest Service land is part of RARE II area number 6292.

Physical Characteristics: The inventory unit contains portions of three perennial streams -- McGraw, Nelson and Copper Creeks. McGraw and Nelson Creek valleys have towering vertical rock outcroppings, and steep slopes covered with grass, poison ivy, and small shrubbery. The riparian zone contains a variety of deciduous trees, wild flowers, and shrubbery. The Copper Creek area has steeply-sloping valley sides which are covered with coniferous trees to the west and shrubbery to the east.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria because it adjoins Forest Service RARE II area number 6292 which contains 5,900 acres. This Forest Service unit was placed into a "further planning" category by the Department of Agriculture pending completion of the management plan for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Subsequently, the Forest Service announced it preferred wilderness designation for Unit 6292 as its management alternative.

Naturalness: The eastern half of the inventory unit is essentially undisturbed by human works and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The Snake River reservoir and the Idaho Power Company road are outside of the unit, but are visible from many parts of it. In the western half of the unit, the south half of Section 34 contains tree stumps, logging skid trails, a landing and a 350 KV powerline. Even where it runs outside of the unit, the powerline is easily visible. The south, west, and northwest boundaries of Section 34 are a regularly-used road. A road cut running diagonally across the Idaho side of the Snake River Canyon is visible from high points in the western half of the unit. Approximately 290 acres in Section 34 have been heavily impacted by the works of man.

Solitude: The highly-dissected canyons and hillsides in the eastern half provide outstanding topographic screening. At the creek mouths, traffic on the Idaho Power Company road (an off-site intrusion across the Hells Canyon Reservoir) is slightly noticeable. This portion of the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, wildlife observation and photography particularly when one considers the proximity of the unit to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Big game and upland game bird hunting are also outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The riparian zones of the eastern half of the unit offer an educational opportunity to the wildlife and botanical enthusiast. The Barton berry (Rubus bartonianys), a threatened species on the Federal list, can be found within the unit. Also, found within the unit are Cusick's milkvetch (Astragalus cusickii), Snake River Canyon phlox (Phlox colubrina), and the Snake River milkvetch (Astragalus vallaris), all of which are under consideration by the State for inclusion on the Federal threatened

list. Sparrows, yellow warblers, the American kestrel, western meadowlark, golden and bald eagles and various species of upland game can be observed in the area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 1610-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 290 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free from the imprints of man, has outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation and forms a logical extension of the adjoining Forest Service proposed wilderness area. Two hundred and ninty acres have been heavily impacted by logging activities and no longer appear natural.

Unit Number: 6-2

Unit Name: Homestead

Description

Size: 11,800 acres of public land. There are six privately owned inholdings totalling 520 acres. Forest Service RARE II unit number 6291 containing 6260 acres adjoins the southwestern edge of the unit. This unit has been placed in the "further planning" category by the Forest Service.

Location: Approximately 65 miles northeast of Baker.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the east by the Snake River Road and private land; on the north by private land, the Hess Road and the Wallowa Whitman National Forest; on the west by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and a logging road; on the south by private land and Highway 86. The adjoining Forest Service land is part of RARE II area number 6291. The boundary is highly irregular on the north, east, and south sides, due to the configuration of the private lands and roads. The northern section of the unit forms a narrow crescent, in places no more than one-fourth mile in width.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is greatly dissected with several stream vallys and steep sloping ridges. Distinct lava outcroppings are centrally located within the unit. Pine, fir, aspen, and willow can be found on the northeast-facing slopes and along the riparian zones, with perennial grasses covering the remaining slopes. The forest understory includes Oregon grape, snowberry, and snowbrush. Deer and elk are abundant throughout most of the unit. Black bear, red-tailed hawk, and great horned owl have been observed in the forested and riparian zones.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The northern portion and part of the western side have been logged. Cherry-stem roads, skid trails, logging cuts, and fills are clearly evident. A 350 KV powerline runs on and off the unit along the Hess Road and along the Oregon side of the Snake River Road. Within the northern and western portions of the unit the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The crescent-shaped area in the north does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to its very irregular, narrow shape and lack of excellent vegetative or topographic screening. Maintenance crews for the 350 KV powerline along the west edge of the unit would detract from

opportunities for solitude in that area. The deeply cut, switch-backed road ascending the hill from Homestead to a section of the old Irondyke Mine, while out of the unit, is a major intrusion and is substantially noticeable from the area between the Homestead and Irondyke drainages. Throughout the remainder of the unit, south of Homestead, the off-site intrusions are inescapable. Activities associated with Copperfield, Oxbow Dam powerhouse, Idaho Power's campground and access road, and Highway 86 are substantially noticeable. Opportunities for escaping these intrusions are limited and of short duration. While solitude can be found, the opportunity is not considered outstanding.

Recreation: The steep topography offers a physical challenge to the hiker and backpacker. The lava outcroppings within the Homestead drainage provide scenic and geologic sightseeing opportunities. Deer and chukar hunting are outstanding throughout the majority of this unit. Excellent elk hunting is found at the higher elevations.

Supplemental Values: The Homestead Unit lies within the unique biological area of the Snake River Canyon. Plant communities are diverse, because of the wide variation in climatic and edaphic factors. These conditions provide unique habitats for a number of rare and unusual species. Numerous restricted endemic species are known from the Canyon area and the east flank of the adjacent Wallowa Mountains. They include two plants which are on the Federal candidate threatened list - swamp onion (Allium madidum) and Cusick's camas (Camassia cusickii). The latter is particularly significant, its entire known range limited to within a 20-mile radius of the Homestead Unit. The unit contains 16 state-listed plants known from the unit, which may or may not be recommended for eventual national listing pending further research. There are probably other sensitive species in this area which have yet to be identified.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,700-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,100 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally natural and free of imprints of man's works, and it offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit contains 600 acres which have been logged. The effects are still evident and the area does not appear natural. There are also 500 acres which do not contain outstanding opportunities for recreation or solitude. These 1,100 acres are proposed for elimination from further wilderness review.

Unit Number: 6-3

Unit Name: Sheep Mountain

Description

Size: 8,200 acres of public land. There is a 120-acre private land inholding.

Location: 65 miles northeast of Baker.

Boundaries: The unit is bordered on the north by private land; on the east by private land and the Snake River Road; on the south by a reservoir and Road Canyon road; on the west by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The northern portion of the unit is dissected by several creek drainages, a canyon, and extremely steep sloping

ridges. The elevation rises sharply from approximately 1780 feet at the Snake River road to 4940 feet. The steep ridges are composed of basalt rock outcroppings, many with vertical cliffs. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are common at the higher elevations with patches of snowberry, bitter cherry, ninebark and wild rose included in the understory. The topography in the southern portion of the unit is characterized by steep ridges and rolling hills covered with annual grasses. This southern portion has been heavily grazed and the vegetation is essentially non-native.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears primarily natural in the northern portion except for the following two developments. A small cabin is located in T.7 S., R. 48 E., Section 32, which is substantially unnoticeable because it is almost completely shielded by topography and vegetation. A Forest Service repeater station occupies the S. W. corner of Section 31. While it can be seen, it occupies only a very small space and does not substantially detract from the naturalness of the area. In the southern portion a 350 KV powerline is a substantially noticeable. It is located on ridge tops where its large wooden dual poles, insulators and lines can be readily seen. A road associated with the powerline can easily be seen due to its cuts and fills. These intrusions are not screened. The imprint of man is substantially noticeable on approximately 1,850 acres in the southern portion of the unit.

Solitude: The northern portion, with its deeply dissected drainages, thick vegetative cover in riparian zones, and scattered brush patches at higher elevations, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. From the ridgetop in the north, Highway 86 and its traffic is substantially noticeable. In the southern portion, the sights and sounds of the Brownlee dam, powerhouse, campground, and road are substantially noticeable from the ridgetop which extends north to south. The sight and sound of traffic on the 350 KV powerline boundary is evident from the boundary road to all high points in T. 8 S., R. 47 E., Sections 13, 24, 25, and 26; although very steep, the terrain does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude due mainly to the inadequate topographic and total lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: The steep topography in the northern portion offers a physical challenge to the backpacker and day-hiker. Equestrian enthusiasts could use the already-established trails although access into the unit is limited. Chukar hunting is excellent throughout the entire unit; big-game hunting is outstanding in the northern portion.

Supplemental Values: The higher elevations of this unit contain several plant species of interest to the scientific community. Thyme-leaved buckwheat (Eriogonum thymoides), Swamp onion (Allium madidum), and Cusick's camas (Camassia cusickii), all candidate threatened species have been recorded within the unit. On the east flank of the unit, five and possibly a sixth state-listed rare plants exist, some of which are considered regional endemics of the Snake River Canyon.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 6,350 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,850 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free from the imprints of man. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. It contains supplemental values in the form of scientifically

important plants. The area proposed for elimination lacks wilderness characteristics with visible cuts and fills from abandoned roads, a constructed livestock trail and a 350 KV powerline which detract from naturalness. In addition outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in the area proposed for elimination.

Unit Number: 6-10

Unit Name: Cache Creek Ranch

Description

Size: The unit is made up of six parcels comprising 2,935 acres; 1,350 acres lie within a Congressionally-mandated wilderness study area in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The Forest Service's draft management plan, Alternative C, recommends this study area for designation as wilderness.

Location: Approximately 60 miles northeast of Enterprise.

Boundaries: The unit is bordered on the north by private land and the Chief Joseph Wildlife Management Area managed by the Washington Game Department; on the east by the Snake River, private land, and the Congressionally mandated wilderness study area within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; on the south by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; and on the west by private land.

Physical Characteristics: Elevations range from 900 to 4900 feet - a rise of 4000 feet within two and one half miles. The area is extremely steep with vertical rock outcroppings and deeply dissected drainages. Vegetation consists of blue bunchgrass, Idaho fescue, scattered coniferous trees and riparian vegetation in the drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The several parcels of this unit meet the minimum size criteria because they adjoin the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness study unit.

Naturalness: The unit appears natural over most of its area. It is characterized by deeply dissected topography with weathered rock spires, steep grass-covered ridgetops and slopes with scattered coniferous and deciduous trees. A small cabin, corral and an off-site road are not substantially noticeable throughout the unit because they occur in a steep drainage and are screened from view. The northern portion contains two fencelines, both of which are minor intrusions. The southern portion contains a fence along its western boundary. This fence is composed of weathered wood and is a minor intrusion.

Solitude: Jenny's Cabin and corral, historic remnants of early settlement, may attract visitors and limit opportunities for solitude. The unit is extremely dissected by deep canyons, has towering rock spires, and jutting horizontal lava outcroppings, and thus provides excellent topographic screening. There is limited vegetative screening throughout most of the unit with the exception of the southernmost portions which are forested with coniferous trees.

Recreation: Outstanding recreation opportunities prevail throughout the unit. Several existing trails provide access for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting. The rugged terrain and steep topography offer

outstanding sightseeing and photographic opportunities. The deeply cut ravines and rock spires are challenges for rock climbing. The vertical spires and horizontal lava outcroppings offer outstanding views to the hiker and backpacker. Elk and deer hunting are unparalleled, with excellent herd numbers and shooting opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The small linecabin at Jenny's Corral is of historic value. The old horse corral immediately above the cabin is in a state of disrepair, but is evident. Three rare plants have high botanical interest: Gooseberry leaved alum root (Heuchera grossularii folia), Glandular penstemon (Penstemon glandulosus), and Sheldon milkvetch (Astragalus sheldonii).

Proposed Decision: Designate a 2,935-acre wilderness study area, consisting of six separate parcels.

Rationale: All six parcels are essentially natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. They offer outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude, and contains supplemental values. Just under half the total acreage is contained within a Congressionally-mandated wilderness study area which is being recommended for wilderness designation.

Unit Number: 6-11

Unit Name: Teepee Ridge

Description

Size: 240 acres. It borders the Forest Service's RARE II unit 6300 (Wildhorse) which is 20,800 acres in size. During the initial inventory this RARE II unit was in the "further planning" category; therefore the small BLM parcel was recommended for intensive inventory. Since that time the Forest Service has recommended that unit 6300 be excluded from further wilderness consideration.

Location: Approximately 50 miles northeast of Enterprise.

Boundaries: It is bordered on the west, north and east by private land, and on the south by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is very steep, rising from 3000 elevation to 4050 feet elevation. With the exception of approximately ten timbered acres, the vegetation is basically a brush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit fails to meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears natural. There are no evident works of man.

Solitude: Due to the unit's very small size an outstanding opportunity for solitude cannot be found.

Recreation: Some big-game hunting can occur on the tract; however, the opportunity is not considered to be outstanding because of its very small size.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values were found.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural, but it is only 240 acres in size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or recreation. The adjoining RARE II unit has been released from further wilderness consideration; therefore, the BLM unit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Unit Numbers: 6-13, 14, 15, 38, and 39

Unit Name: Islands

Description

Size: These five units are all very small islands. Their approximate sizes are: 6-13, 5 acres; 6-14, 4 acres; 6-15, 6 acres; 6-38, 4 acres; and 6-39, 2 acres.

Location: These islands are located in two sections of the Grande Ronde River. Units 13, 14, and 15 are in a two and a half mile stretch of the river approximately 15 miles upstream from Troy, Oregon. Though located in Washington units 38 and 39 are administered by the Baker District. They are 7 miles downstream from Washington Highway 129.

Boundaries: Boundaries are all formed by the Grande Ronde River.

Physical Characteristics: The islands are flat with heavy gravel accumulations on the upstream sides. Unit 13 has some ponderosa pine; the others contain only brush, willows, and other riparian vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The islands appear natural. A few fire rings are found on 6-13.

Solitude: There is little vegetation and almost no topographic screening on any of the islands. Their very small sizes precludes the opportunity to escape the presence of other persons if they were on the islands. The surrounding acreage (Unit 6-12 with 2120 acres) clearly and obviously lacked wilderness characteristics and has been eliminated from further wilderness review.

Recreation: The islands provide some very limited camping and picnicking opportunities. Due to their very small sizes one would not seek these places out among others to pursue this activity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all five islands from further wilderness review.

Rationale: These units are extremely small. They are natural, but outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist.

Unit Number: 6-40

Unit Name: Hooker Gulch

Description

Size: 6,100 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles southeast of Baker in the Burnt River Canyon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south by the Burnt River road and some private land holdings, and on the remaining sides by BLM and County roads and private land. The boundary is highly irregular due to the configuration of the private lands, roads, and the Burnt River.

Physical Characteristics: Steep terrain is a common characteristic throughout the entire unit which has been eroded by nine major drainages. The elevation ranges from 2,800 feet at the Burnt River Canyon road, to over 5,000 feet on many ridge tops. Intermittent streams dissect the area, leaving steep sloping ridges and basalt rock outcroppings. Sagebrush covers

the majority of the unit, scattered with juniper, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir. Deer, elk, chukar, and blue grouse are abundant in most of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The western one-third of the unit has been heavily impacted by the works of man. There are many cat trails built for fire suppression, and some are presently used by vehicles. All are substantially noticeable due to the very evident road cuts and fills. They are located on ridge tops, side hills, and drainage bottoms. An abandoned roadway, with substantially noticeable cuts and fills, extends from the Kirby Reservoir to the mouth of Hooker Gulch. On the southern boundary, a telephone line crosses the boundary line many times but is substantially unnoticeable. Two fencelines cross the unit and were being re-built during the summer of 1979. These are minor intrusions.

Solitude: With the number of dead-end roads penetrating the unit, it is virtually impossible for the visitor to obtain outstanding solitude. The rugged terrain offers some good topographic screening. Most of the roads and trails are located along ridge tops and down drainages; consequently, it is easy to see or hear people. The irregular, thin shape of the eastern portion of the unit also prohibits the visitor from obtaining solitude. From this eastern portion (one-fourth mile wide) farmhouses, roads, irrigation ditches, and the Burnt River Canyon road dominate the experience.

Recreation: The area provides excellent habitat for, and numbers of, Hungarian partridge, blue grouse, mourning dove, chukar, deer and elk. Because the unit has access roads on nearly every ridge, outstanding opportunities exist for hunting. Outstanding opportunities exist for horseback riding and day hikes. The scenery is spectacular.

Supplemental Values: Schuck's Ditch, built in 1877, begins at McElroy Creek and runs east along the Burnt River Canyon Road for about three miles. It has potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The portion of the unit adjoining the Burnt River Canyon contains a few plant species of interest. The endemic Snake River milkvetch (Astragalus vallaris), and Snake River nemophila (Nemophila kirtleyi) have been, or are currently, listed as being possible threatened or endangered. They appear only on state lists, not federal compilations.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The western one third (2,100 acres) of the unit is heavily impacted by the works of man. Abandoned roads, cat trails, ways and road cuts and fills are substantially noticeable. The remaining portion of the unit which is natural contains only 4,000 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

MEDFORD DISTRICT

Unit Number: 11-1

Unit Name: Mountain Lakes

Description

Size: 320 acres

Location: 15 miles northwest of Keno.

Boundaries: Private land on the north, east and south. The Mountain Lake Wilderness Area of the Winema National Forest on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The unit lies on the steep east slope of Aspen Butte. Within the unit, elevation rises from 5,000 to 6,300 feet. Vegetation consists of dense brush fields and some sparse stands of conifers.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit by itself does not meet the minimum size criterion. It is included in the intensive inventory because it adjoins an existing wilderness area.

Naturalness: There are no noticeable imprints of human activities in this unit. It appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: When considered as an addition to the adjoining Mountain Lake Wilderness Area, this unit would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: When considered as an addition to the adjoining wilderness area, this unit would offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities, such as hiking and backpacking.

Supplemental Values: The unit has values as an undisturbed watershed and as wildlife habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 320-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural and when considered in conjunction with the adjoining Mountain Lake Wilderness Area it would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 11-16

Unit Name: Zane Grey

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the initial wilderness inventory this unit contained 45,000 acres. Since the final decision on the initial inventory was announced an intensive forest inventory of the area, using updated criteria, identified additional commercial timber land within the original unit boundaries. Revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands being managed for commercial timber production on a sustained yield basis are exempted from wilderness review. As a result of the forest inventory the boundaries of the wilderness inventory unit have been revised to exclude the commercial timber lands.

Description

Size: 18,460 acres. There is one 50-acre private inholding.

Location: Approximately three miles north of Galice.

Boundaries: Most of the unit is bounded by O&C lands which are being managed to support commercial timber production on a sustained yield basis and are thereby exempt from wilderness review. Small segments of the boundary are defined by BLM roads in four places and by private property in seven places. Two dead-end roads run into the unit for about one mile each. Both of these roads lead to, and partially bound, inlying tracts of

commercial timberland which are not part of the wilderness inventory unit. In addition to these two large tracts, there are numerous smaller inlying tracts of commercial timber land scattered throughout the unit. These inliers of commercial timber land are excluded from the unit. Approximately one-half mile of the southwest boundary is adjacent to the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area.

Physical Characteristics: The area has very steep mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 400 to 3,800 feet. The Rogue River crosses the center of the unit and there are many small perennial tributary streams. The slopes on the sides of the stream valleys commonly exceed 50 percent and the valley bottoms are very narrow. Mixed hardwood and coniferous forests cover most of the unit with brushfields and occasional meadows on the remainder.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size critera.

Naturalness: Much of the land within the unit is undisturbed by human activities. However, there are a variety of developments and impacts from human works concentrated along and near the Rogue River, through the core of the unit. These include abandoned buildings and material from past mining activities, current mining activities, the historic Whiskey Creek Cabin which is maintained by the BLM, the Rogue River Trail which has six bridges within the unit, a burned over area above Bunker Creek which was logged leaving visible stumps and skid trains, and flood debris which includes a small barge. In addition, the Grave Creek boat landing and the historic Rogue River Ranch are located on the unit's perimeter, at either end of the Rogue River Trail. The combination of the location of these disturbances, the steep slopes above the valley and the narrow configuration of the unit results in a situation where the intrusions on naturalness would be unavoidably obvious to wilderness users. Though much of the terrain in the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, the imprints of man's works are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit has features such as dense vegetation, diverse topography with deep valleys, and rushing water which provide natural screening and opportunities for solitude. The steep terrain and dense vegetation also have the effect of restricting human activities to narrow corridors where the likelihood of encountering others is greatly increased. The western part of the unit borders the Wild Rogue Wilderness for about one-half mile. This portion of the unit is a narrow projection along the Rogue River where there are few opportunities for solitude. Throughout the remainder of the unit there are narrow peninsulas and inlying tracts of commercial timber which leave the wilderness inventory unit with a very irregular configuration, providing only limited opportunities for solitude. Because of its configuration and the physical characteristics which confine activities this unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The Congressionally designated Rogue Wild and Scenic River, which traverses the unit for 26 miles, provides outstanding opportunities for whitewater rafting, kayaking, and fishing. Other opportunities include hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife observation, and sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: The unit includes two sites which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are significant remnants

of the gold mining and settlement history of the region. Battle sites of the Rogue Indian wars exist within the unit as do some significant archaeologicals sites. Numerous waterfalls, plunge pools, and other points of great scenic beauty accur along the Rogue and within other drainages throughout the area.

The unit includes habitat of the northern spotted owl, northern bald eagle, osprey, cougar, bear, and Roosevelt elk. Critical deer winter range is included in the unit. Some tributaries are spawning habitat for anadromous fish. The Rogue River is a major migratory route for Chinook and Coho salmon and steelhead. One suspected threatened and one proposed endangered plant specie are found within the unit. They are sedum moranii and Lewisia cotyledon ssp. Howelii.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criterion because the works of man are substantially noticeable. In addition to the existing intrusions on naturalness located along the core of the unit, future activities on the commercial timber lands which surround and lie within the unit will also detract from the unit's naturalness. In many of those lands, intensive forestry management activities, including road development and timber harvesting, may take place. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Unit Number: 11-17

Unit Name: Soda Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During the initial inventory this unit contained 6,100 acres. Since the final decision on the initial wilderness inventory was announced an intensive forest inventory of the area, using updated criteria, identified additional commercial timber land within the original unit boundaries. Revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands being managed for commercial timber production on a sustained yield basis are exempted from wilderness review. As a result of the forest inventory the boundaries of the wilderness inventory unit have been revised to exclude the newly identified commercial timber lands.

Description

Size: 5,640 acres.

Location: 18 miles southeast of Ashland.

Boundaries: On the west a combination of the Schohiem road, private land and public land which is exempt from wilderness review; on the north a combination of private and exempt public lands; on the east exempt public land; and the Schohiem road on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has very steep terrain ranging in elevation from 2,800 to 5,700 feet. Camp Creek, Dutch Oven Creek and Salt Creek run through the unit. The vegetation is varied with stands of mixed conifers and hardwoods, extensive dense brush fields and some open grassy slopes.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criterion.

Naturalness: There is a well used campsite on Camp Creek, a powerline along the eastern boundary, about two miles of fenceline, and a

jeep trail in the southeast portion of the unit between Schohiem road and the powerline. Because of the vegetation and the rugged topography these developments are not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The terrain and vegetation provide natural screening. It is possible to experience a sense of remoteness and to find secluded spots within the unit. The opportunities for solitude are outstanding, but somewhat limited in number by the size and terrain of the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding and hunting. In addition there is great botanical diversity and opportunities for bird watching and animal observation. Abundant water, scenic vistas, and interesting and challenging terrain all add to the quality of the recreational opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The south slopes provide deer winter range with the southeastern portion of the unit designated as critical winter range. The Pacific Crest Trail borders the northwestern portion of the unit. There is great ecological diversity and there may be threatened and endangered plant species in the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 5,640-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the impacts from human activities substantially unnoticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for a number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

COOS BAY DISTRICT

Unit Number: 12-8A

Unit Name: North Sisters Rocks

Description

Size: Three rocks each approximately one acre in size.

Location: Approximately midway between Port Orford and Gold Beach.

Boundaries: Surrounded by Pacific Ocean surf at high tide and attached to an exposed sand and rock beach at low tide.

Physical Characteristics: One rock rises 134 feet and another 78 feet above sea level. All three have steep cliffs and steep rolling tops, with broadleaf evergreen coastal shrubs and patches of grass on top.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: All three rocks appear to be essentially natural with no man-made disturbance visible. A small remnant of a archaeologic site is located on one rock (a portion of the site has slipped into the sea). Well-worn foot trails lead up the cliffs from the beach to the top of two of the rocks.

Solitude: The rocks are located on an isolated and undeveloped beach one-half mile north of Sisters Rock, a natural landmark on the coast. Sisters Rock is accessible from US Highway 101 by an old quarry access road. The rocks are surrounded by surf at high tide and washed by surf on three sides at low tide. On numerious occasions they may reward some visitors with an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This is especially true during the frequent occasions of rain, strong winds, and fog. During the less frequent clear days, and especially during the summer tourist season, opportunities for solitude are diminished due to the small size of the rocks and the relatively easy hike up the beach from a lightly used, undeveloped recreational attraction.

Recreation: The rocks offer opportunities for rock fishing, observation of marine tidal pools, photography, hiking, and beach combing, but these opportunities are not outstanding when compared to similiar opportunities along the south coast of Oregon. A primitive and unconfined recreation experience would be limited by the small size of the rocks.

Supplemental Values: A remnant of an archealogic site on one rock and rare herbaceous plants on all three rocks.

Proposed Decision: Designate North Sisters Rock as a wilderness study area.

Rationale: The rocks appear generally natural with the imprint of man substantially unnoticable. The rocks offer outstanding, albeit very limited, opportunities for solitude; but do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 12-10A

Unit name: Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks

Description

Size: Eight rocks, the largest of which is less than one acre.

Boundaries: At high tide the eight rocks are surrounded by surf; at low tide an exposed sandy beach extends out to the rocks.

Physical Characteristics: Near vertical rock faces; four of the eight rocks rise over 100 feet. Several of the rocks have sea caves through

which waves surge. None of the rocks have flat tops or any woody vegetation, but a number of herbaceous plants are found in small niches and on narrow ledges.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The rocks appear to be natural with no imprint of man discernable.

Solitude: The rocks are 200 to 300 yards from a paved roadside pulloff from US Highway 101, a heavily travelled tourist and trucking route. They are readily accessible at low tide over an exposed sandy beach. On a nice day in the summer at low tide, a dozen people or more might be expected to be out amongst the rocks. There is no practical opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks are highly scenic and a very popular place for tourists to stop for beach combing and photography. The rocks do not offer any opportunity for primitive and confined recreation other than possibly rock climbing (the rock is soft weathered sandstone and siltstone and foot-and-handholds break off easily making climbing hazardous). Opportunities for recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are a number of rare plants in small niches and on narrow ledges.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate the Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While the rocks are essentially natural they offer no opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 12-12A

Unit Name: Lone Ranch Rocks

Description

Size: A number of nearshore rocks, the largest of which are approximately one acre in size.

Location: Five miles north of Brookings off US Highway 101.

Boundaries: The rocks are attached by sand and rock to Lone Ranch Beach at low tide; at high tide the rocks are surrounded by surf.

Physical Characteristics: Most of the rocks are wave-washed during storms; a few of the larger rocks support herbaceous plants in small niches and on narrow ledges.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The rocks appear to be essentially natural with no apparent man-made disturbances except for some well-worn foot trails to the tops of several of the rocks.

Solitude: Lone Ranch Beach is part of Samuel Boardman State Park. There is a paved access road to a parking lot and sanitary facility near the beach. A number of people are usually found on the beach during nice weather and many of these people climb out on the rocks at low tide when they are accessible. The rocks do not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The rocks offer opportunities for beach combing, and fishing, but these opportunities are not outstanding when considered in context of the south coast of Oregon.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: The Lone Ranch Rocks should be eliminated for further wilderness review.

Rationale: The rocks appear to be natural but offer no opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 12-13A

Unit Name: Harris Island

Description

Size: Approximately two to three acres.

Location: Adjacent to Harris Beach State Park, approximately one mile northwest of Brookings.

Boundaries: At high tide Harris Island is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean; at low tide the east end is connected by a rock and sand spit to Harris Beach.

Physical Characteristics: Harris Island is flat topped and rises abruptly in near-vertical rock cliffs to 65 feet in elevation. A shallow soil mantle on the flat top supports broadleaf evergreen coastal scrub vegetation intermixed with a few grass patches.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness: The islands appears to be natural with no recent or historic man-made developments. It does, however, contain a known archaelogic site. A well-defined trail extends from the beach up a rocky cliff to the flat top of the island.

Solitude: Harris Island on some occasions no doubt offers some visitors an opportunity for solitude. This is especially true during the frequent occasions of rain, strong winds, and fog. During the less frequent clear days and especially during the summer tourist season it would be very difficult to experience solitude due to the proximity of Harris Island to Harris Beach State Park, the relatively easy accessibility of the island at low tide, the island's small size and lack of vegetative/togographic screening. Overall, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for fishing among the rocks including skin diving for abalone, observation of marine life in tidal pools, photography, hiking, and beach combing, but these opportunities could not be considered outstanding when compared to similar opportunities along the south coast of Oregon.

Supplemental Values: Harris Island contains an archaelogic site and some rare herbaceous plants.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The island appears to be natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Opportunities for solitude, while present on some occasions, especially during inclement weather, are difficult to maintain on nice sunny days during the summer tourist season, due to the proximity to a developed state park, the relatively easy access, and small size of the island. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are extremely limited by the island's small size and not outstanding in the context of the south coast of Oregon.

Unit Number: 12-14A

Unit Name: Zwagg Island and Table Rock

Description

Size: Zwagg Island is approximately ten acres in size; Table Rock approximately one acre.

Location: Offshore of a developed residential area of Brookings and immediately adjacent to Mill Beach, which is an undeveloped state beach accessible to the public only by foot.

Boundaries: At high tides in the winter months with prevailing southwest winds, Mill Beach is greatly reduced in width by wave action and Zwagg Island and Table Rock are surrounded by surf. At high tides during the summer months with prevailing northwest winds, littoral sands are deposited and Zwagg Island and Table rock are attached to a wider Mill Beach; Zwagg Island is always surrounded on three sides by the ocean while only the tip of Table Rock juts out into the Pacific at high tide in the summer. At low tides, Zwagg Island is attached to the extensive exposed sands of Mill Beach at one end but remains surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on three sides. At low tides Table Rock is often surrounded by the more extensive exposed sands of Mill Beach.

Physical Characteristics: Zwagg Island and Table Rock are flat toped and rise abruptly in near vertical cliffs from sea level to 102 and 62 feet, respectively.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Both Zwagg Island and Table Rock appear essentially natural with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. However, Zwagg Island contains an archeolgic site of some significance. Zwagg Island was also inhabited by a hermit in the early 1900's. Some remnants of his dwelling and garden fencing have been found.

Solitude: Zwagg Island on numerous occasions offers visitors an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This is especially true during the frequent occasions of rain, strong winds, and fog. During the less frequent clear days, and especially during the summer tourist season, it would be more difficult to experience solitude due to the small size of the island and the relatively easy trail from Mill Beach, which is lightly used by the public. Zwagg Island appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, but Table Rock does not because it is too closely associated with Mill Beach.

Recreation: Zwagg Island offers opportunities for fishing among the rocks including skindiving for abalone, observation of marine life, phototgraphy, and hiking, but these opportunities would not be considered outstanding when compared to similar opportunities along the south coast of Oregon. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience are limited by Zwagg Island's small size. Table Rock is too small to offer primitive recreation opportunities, except for a short hike to the top.

Supplemental Values: Zwagg Island has an archaelogic site and rare herbaceous plants.

Proposed Decision: Designate Zwagg Island as a wilderness study area; exclude Table Rock because it lacks wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: Zwagg Island and Table Rock appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work unnoticeable. Zwagg Island offers limited but

outstanding opportunities for solitude. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Table Rock does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude and has almost no opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 12-15

Unit Name: Fish Rock

Description

Size: A large rock approximately one acre in size.

Location: Just south of Bandon.

Boundaries: Surrounded by Pacific Ocean at high tide and attached to an exposed sand and rock beach at low tide.

Physical Characteristics: Flat-topped, rising only several feet above sea level, wave washed during storms.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Essentially natural in appearance.

Solitude: This rock is a popular fishing spot less than one-quarter mile from a paved parking lot with sanitary facilities in Bandon State Park. Thus it does not offer real opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: A popular fishing spot but does not offer any real opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness.

Rationale: Although the rock appears to be natural it does not offer any real opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

SPOKANE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 13-1

Unit Name: Juniper Forest

Description

Size: 7,806 acres of public land, with 472 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 18 miles northeast of Pasco.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the northwest, north, east, and south by private land, by a powerline on the southwest corner, and by roads and private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The Juniper Forest area is made up almost entirely of sand dunes in various stages of stabilization. Large areas of active dunes are found in the northeast and central sections of the unit. Western juniper trees are scattered throughout the unit with two major groves of junipers centrally located within a 4,600-acre area closed to off-road vehicle use. Vegetation consists primarily of mixtures of sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, bluegrass, wheatgrass, needlegrass, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Impacts on naturalness within the Juniper Forest include: approximately 11 miles of barbed wire fence; ORV trails and ways which are concentrated in the southwest portion of the unit; two firebreaks in the northeast section; seven water guzzlers; and a gas pipeline exposed in numerous places along the west boundary of the unit. There are numerous outside sights and sounds which have a significant impact on the naturalness of the unit. These include cultivated fields which border the unit on three sides and are visible from virtually everywhere in the unit except low spots between the dunes. Traffic noise from nearby highways and from the Tri-Cities Airport are inescapable. Off-road vehicle use takes place outside and adjacent to the unit and its noise can be heard within the unit. At night, the lights of the Tri-Cities and nearby farms are visible from everywhere except the low spots. Several powerlines can also be seen from the unit. When taken individually none of these impacts on naturalness is particularly significant. However, their cumulative effect on this relatively small unit which has low-lying topography and very little vegetative screening is a situation in which man's works are substantially noticeable and the area appears generally unnatural.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude in the Juniper Forest are limited. The relatively small size and lack of vegetative screening outside the main groves detract from any outstanding opportunities. Localized opportunities for solitude do exist at the base of the dunes.

Recreation: The unit offers good, but not outstanding, sightseeing opportunities including opportunities to observe the biological and geological features of the area. Hiking and nature study do occur in this area to a limited extent. Currently, use occurs primarily during the cooler spring months.

Supplemental Values: The Juniper Forest is unique in Washington State. The unit possesses the largest area of active sand dunes in the State, the State's largest concentration of western juniper, one of the larger steppe vegetation concentrations in the State, and provides habitat for several wildlife species important to the State, including the

ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, long-billed curlew, sage thrasher, kangaroo rat, pygmy rabbit, and the sage sparrow.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural and the imprints of man are substantially noticeable. The Juniper Forest also does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-2

Unit Name: Chopaka Mountain

Description

Size: 5,560 acres of public land with 94.86 acres private inholdings.

Location: Approximately 15 miles west of Oroville.

Boundaries: The unit has State land as a west boundary; mixed State and private as a south boundary; private land on the east, and Canada on the north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The northern two-thirds of the unit is made up of the very steep and rugged eastern slopes located beneath the crest of Chopaka Mountain. The southern third of the unit contains Bowers Lake, the north half of Chopaka Lake, and a steep, open pastureland. Vegetation is made up of a variety of trees, including pockets of subalpine fir, whitebark pine, lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and associated low shrubs and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The northern two-thirds of the unit appear generally natural, except for some evidence of mining activity, a fence and a road bordering the eastern edge of this area. The area surrounding Chopaka Lake has numerous impacts, due to the heavy recreational use occurring there. A dead-end road runs into the unit for about a half-mile on the west side of Chopaka Lake. Approximately four miles of barbed wire fences, four miles of ways, two water developments, three cabins, and heavy shoreline site compaction from recreational use along the lakes occur in about a two-square mile area in the southern one-third of the unit. Since this small area is the only real useable section of the unit and lacks much vegetative screening, the imprints of man's work have a cumulative effect of being substantially noticeable, with the area generally appearing to be unnatural.

Solitude: The northern two-thirds of the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities due to the extreme steepness and sparse vegetational screening. The southwest corner has a gradual slope with little vegetational screening. The road adjacent to Chopaka Lake provides easy access for motor vehicles and the area receives very heavy recreational use. Since much of the lake is outside the inventory unit, this use could continue even if the area were to be designated wilderness. The best opportunities for solitude lie in the northwest tip of Chopaka Lake and around Bowers Lake, but they are not outstanding opportunities. Overall, the unit lacks outstanding opportunities.

Recreation: Due to the steepness of the unit, recreational opportunities are limited to about two square miles in the southern section of the unit. Best opportunities are for fishing at Chopaka Lake and hunting. Observation of mountain goats is considered "outstanding" by the State Game Department, but a person has to be outside the unit looking in to see them.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains a population of mountain goats and white-tailed ptarmigan, providing scenic and ecological values. Old cabins and mines have some historical value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area does not appear generally natural nor does it possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-3

Unit Name: Lummi Rocks

Description

Size: Approximately 8 acres of public land currently leased to Western Washington University for marine ecological studies.

Location: About one-quarter mile from Lummi Island, about ten miles southwest of Bellingham.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a group of rocky outcrops connected by a sandbar at low tide. The rocks have a good overall grass cover with sparse shrubs occurring in places.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The only imprint of man is a Coast Guard navigational marker. Otherwise the unit is generally natural.

Solitude: Limited opportunities exist due to the small size and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: The only major activity would appear to be sightseeing with nature study a second possibility. Other activities would appear to be precluded by the size and rocky nature of the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit would appear to have some ecological value as evidenced by the lease to the University. The scenic values would also be considered good.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears generally natural but lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and is not of sufficient size.

Unit Number: 13-4

Unit Name: Blind Island

Description

Size: Approximately 2 acres, currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: At the mouth of Blind Bay on the northside of Shaw Island, about one-quarter mile west of the ferry landing.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a somewhat flat, dome-shaped rock with good grass cover, and a few scattered trees and shrubs.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: State Parks has placed picnic tables, fireplaces, moorage facilities, and a pit toilet on the island. Otherwise, the island appears generally natural.

Solitude: Opportunities in the unit are very limited due to the generally flat topography, lack of vegetational screening, and small size.

Recreation: No opportunities for unconfined recreation exist because of the island's small size. Moderate opportunities for primitive recreation exist mostly as a result of State Parks developments and the location of the island.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department states that the unit has values for wildlife which include seals, seabirds, and eagles.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although generally natural, the unit lacks opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-5

Unit Name: Chuckanut Rocks

Description

Size: Less than one acre, currently leased to Western Washington University.

Location: About two miles south of Bellingham in Chuckanut Bay.

Physical Characteristics: Chuckanut Rock is a small, steep-sided rocky island with sparse grass and low brush.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude are available due to the extremely small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are very limited due to the size and rocky nature of the island. There could be some potential for sightseeing, but not outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The unit does have important wildlife and marine biology values as evidenced by the lease to the University for studies and research.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is free from the imprints of man's work but does not have opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-6

Unit Name: Fauntleroy Rock

Description

Size: Less than one acre.

Location: About 100 feet east of Decatur Island in a small bay. It is about one mile from a Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness rock which is also less than one acre in size

Physical Characteristics: Fauntleroy Rock is a low rock pile, sparsely vegetated with grass and one shrub, with an elevation of about 10 feet above sea level.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude are available due to the extremely small size, flat topography, and sparse vegetation.

Recreation: Opportunities are very limited by the small size and poor access. One or two people might potentially camp on the island, but it does not offer any outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The unit may have some minor wildlife value, but none is apparent.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wildernesss review.

Rationale: The unit is too small and, although natural, it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-7

Unit Name: Dot Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre at low tide; underwater at high tide.

Location: Dot Rock is less than one-quarter mile southeast of Decatur Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is an extremely small rock outcropping with no vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude exist due to the extremely small size and lack of any vegetation.

Recreation: No opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist because of the extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some wildlife value as a seabird roost.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although natural, the unit is too small and has no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-8

Unit Name: Lopez Rock

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The rock could not be found during the inventory. The only rock in the vicinity, Small Island, is part of the designated Fish and Wildlife Service San Juan Wilderness.

Unit Number: 13-9

Unit Name: Read's Bay Island

Description

Size: A little over three acres.

Location: Read's Bay Island is about 200 feet west of the southern tip of Decatur Island. It is within about one-half mile of two Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flattened dome-shaped island with fairly heavy grass cover and a few isolated fir trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: A concrete foundation is located on the northwest side of the island which, because of the small size and lack of vegetational screening, is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude in this unit are very limited and not outstanding due to the small size, lack of topographic relief, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities are limited by the small size and lack of good access. Camping and sightseeing opportunities have some potential but are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit lacks size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-10

Unit Name: Twin Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of two rocks about one acre each.

Location: Twin Rocks are about 100 yards east of Orcas Island in the southern section of East Sound. They are within two miles of Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of two flat rocks about 10 feet high with a good grass cover, sparse brush, and poor access.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The only apparent imprint of man is an old sign post on the eastern island. Otherwise, both islands appear natural.

Solitude: Twin Rocks offer no opportunity for solitude because of their small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: The unit could have some potential for camping and sightseeing opportunities, but these opportunities are limited by the size, nature, and access and cannot be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are apparently some minor wildlife values associated with the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit, while generally natural, offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and lacks sufficient size.

Unit Number: 13-11

Unit Name: Barnes Rocks

Description

Size: The unit is made up of four small rocks with a total area of less than one acre for all four together.

Location: The rocks are located from 5 to 100 yards off the north and northeast end of Barnes Island. A Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness island is within one mile.

Physical Characteristics: Barnes Rocks are a group of very small rocks, two of which are underwater at high tide, with no vegetation on any of them. At medium tide they were about three feet above the water.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit is completely natural with no imprints of man's work noticeable.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the island's extremely small size and complete lack of vegetation.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the unit's extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Barnes Rocks do have some wildlife values with heavy bird roosting apparent.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit is completely natural, there are no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-12

Unit Name: Clark Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of two small rocks with a total area of less than one-fourth acre.

Location: The rocks are located within 20 feet of the western shore of Clark Island and are connected to the island at low tide.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is made up of two rounded rocks with no vegetation, about 20 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 3 feet high.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit is completely natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude, due to the rock's extremely small size and lack of any vegetation.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the unit's extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Clark Rocks are natural but offer no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-14

Unit Name: Matia Rock

Description

Size: Two acres of public land within 100 yards of a State-developed campground and boat dock on Matia Island. Remainder of Matia Island is Fish and Wildlife Service Wilderness.

Location: Matia Rock is immediately northwest of Matia Island within Rolfe Cove.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a small rounded island with very steep rocky sides making access very difficult. There is a heavy covering of vegetation with trees and brush in the central area of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Matia rock appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited by the small size of the unit and flat topography.

Recreation: Recreation opportunities are very limited by the small size of Matia Rock, its difficult access, and availability of Matia Island State Park within a couple of hundred feet.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some wildlife value according to the State Game Department. In addition, good scenic values are present on the rock.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Matia Rock, although having no noticeable imprints of man, does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-15

Unit Name: Davis Bay Island and Rocks

Description

Size: The unit has less than two acres total spread out over two main groups of rocks.

Location: The rocks are located 5 to 100 yards off the southwest shore of Lopez Island in the west side of Davis Bay. Four Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands are within one-half mile radius.

Physical Characteristics: Davis Bay Island and Rocks are low, flat, unvegetated rocks under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man's work on any of the rocks.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on the unit due to its extremely small size, lack of vegetation, and flat topography.

Recreation: Davis Bay Island and Rocks offer no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Only apparent value is as a seabird roost and seal haul-out area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears free from imprints of man but offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-16

Unit Name: Richardson Rock

Description

Size: Less than two acres.

Location: The unit is about 75 feet south of Lopez Island and just north of Charles Island. It is within one-half mile of Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands.

Physical Characteristics: Richardson Rock is a small, flat-topped island with steep banks. Vegetation consists of a couple of trees, scattered shrubs, and grass cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the island's small size.

Recreation: Richardson Rock offers no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the island's small size, difficult access, and closeness to the main island.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department states that Richardson Rock is heavily used for seabird roosting and is a seal haul-out area, although no use was apparent at time of inventory.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears natural, there are no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-17

Unit Name: Skull Island

Description

Size: Less than three acres of public land leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: Skull Island is on the north tip of West Sound about 200 feet south of Orcas Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a fairly flat, rocky, steeply banked island with patchy grass and brush, and a few shrubby trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very limited by the island's small size, generally flat topography, and lack of vegetation screening.

Recreation: There may be some potential camping or sightseeing opportunities on the unit but they are not outstanding because of the small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Skull Island shows no imprints of man but offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-18

Unit Name: Harbor Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of a group of small rocks totalling less than one acre of public land.

Location: The rocks in this unit are in the West Sound of Orcas Island, lying from 100 feet to one-half mile from the shore of the main island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is made up of low, flat, unvegetated rocks, some under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit is completely natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the rocks' extremely small size, lack of any vegetation, and low profile.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on this unit because of the extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Wildlife values appear to be the only supplemental values in the unit. The State Game Department stated the area was valuable as a seal haul-out area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Harbor Rocks appear generally natural but have no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-19

Unit Name: Trinka Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: The unit is located about 50 feet north of Sheep Island and about 200 feet south of the West Sound Marina on Orcas Island.

Physical Characteristics: Trinka Rock is a small, rocky island with some grass and two shrubby trees, connected to Sheep Island at low tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The rock appears natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the unit's extremely small size.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the rock's extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Trinka Rock possesses no known supplemental value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Trinka Rock appears generally natural but offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-20

Unit Name: Oak Island and Rock

Description

Size: Oak Island is less than one acre; Oak Rock is less than one-half acre.

Location: The unit is located in the southeast section of West Sound about 200 yards from the shore of Orcas Island for Oak Island, and about 100 feet for the rock.

Physical Characteristics: The island is fairly flat, rocky, with good grass cover and a few trees. The rock is flat with grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man's work on the unit and it appears completely natural.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the unit's small size and flat topography.

Recreation: There could potentially be some minor camping or sightseeing opportunities on Oak Island but they are not outstanding because of the extremely small size. The rock has no opportunities at all because of an even smaller size and lack of any vegetational screening.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Oak Island and Rock appear natural with no imprints of man's work, but lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude.

Unit Number: 13-21

Unit Name: Victim Island

Description

Size: About three acres of public land which are currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: The unit is about 100 yards east of Orcas Island in the southwest area of West Sound.

Physical Characteristics: Victim Island is a relatively tall island with heavy vegetational cover of fir, madrone, shrubs, and grass. Access could be somewhat hard, due to the rocky shoreline.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man.

Solitude: While Victim Island does have good vegetational screening and some topographic diversity, it does not offer outstanding opportunities because of its small size.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunities for camping, picnicking, and sightseeing, but they are limited by the small size, rocky nature, and dense vegetative cover of the island and are not outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: No values known for unit, although it is supposed to be a good seal haul-out area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Victim Island appears natural, but lacks sufficient size and lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-22

Unit Name: Jap Island

Description

Size: About one acre.

Location: Approximately 200 feet south of the town of East Sound on Orcas Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a low, flat island with good grass cover and a few scattered shrubs.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Jap Island appears generally natural with imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the extremely small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on the unit as a result of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Jap Island, while appearing generally natural, lacks sufficient size as well as any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-23

Unit Name: Freeman Island and Beach Haven Rock

Description

Size: Freeman Island is about two acres of public land leased to the State Parks. Beach Haven Rock is less than one-half acre in size.

Location: Freeman Island is within one-quarter mile of the northwest corner of Orcas Island, while Beach Haven Rock is within 100 feet.

Physical Characteristics: The island is a long, narrow, steep banked rock with grassy patches alternating with clumps of trees and brush. Access is not easy. Beach Haven Rock is a small, flat, unvegetated rock under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities on Beach Haven and limited opportunities on Freeman due to small size and lack of much vegetation.

Recreation: Freeman Island offers some opportunities for camping and sightseeing but they are not outstanding because of the unit's small size. Beach Haven Rock offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values evident. State Game Department states there is "probable" winter eagle use.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Unit appears generally natural but lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude.

Unit Number: 13-24

Unit Name: Little Patos

Description

Size: About 15 acres of public land.

Location: The unit is about 50 yards southwest of Patos Island in north San Juan County.

Physical Characteristics: Little Patos is heavily vegetated with good tree, grass, and brush growth over the entire island. The island is a flattened egg-shape with steep, rocky shorelines limiting access.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: No imprints of man's work are noticeable; the unit appears natural.

Solitude: The island has good vegetational screening and topographic relief.

Recreation: Some camping and sightseeing opportunities exist but they are limited by the relatively small size, rocky nature, and dense vegetative cover of the island and are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The island has some wildlife value as a roosting area for eagles nesting on the larger adjacent island as well as high scenic values.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 15-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: Little Patos is natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use as wilderness.

Unit Number: 13-25

Unit Name: Ewing Rocks

Ewing Rocks were mistakenly included in the BLM wilderness review. They have already been designated wilderness as part of the San Juan Wilderness. They are included in the San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Unit Number: 13-26

Unit Name: Dinner Island Rocks

No rock was visible off north end of Dinner Island. Rocks on the south end have been designated Wilderness by the Fish and Wildlife Service due to their high wildlife values.

Unit Number: 13-27

Unit Name: King Islands

Description

Size: The unit consists of a group of rocks with a total area of just over one acre.

Location: The unit lies from 20 to 100 feet off the south shore of San Juan Island between Kanaka and False Bays.

Physical Characteristics: Three of the rocks are steep, rounded, unvegetated domes, while the fourth is a flat, grassy rock.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the islands' extremely small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on King Islands because of their small size.

Supplemental Values: State Game Department states that the rocks may have some minor wildlife values for bird roosting.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: King Islands appear generally natural, but lack sufficient size and offer no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined

recreation.

Unit Number: 13-28

Unit Name: Kanaka Bay Islands

Description

Size: About 15 rocks make up the unit with a total area of about three acres.

Location: The rocks vary from 20 to 250 feet south of San Juan Island in Kanaka Bay adjacent to False Bay.

Physical Characteristics: The islands in the unit are small, low-lying, rocky islands with sparse grass as the only vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: No imprints of man's work are noticeable and the islands appear generally natural.

Solitude: Kanaka Bay Islands offer no opportunities for solitude because of their extremely small size, flat shape, and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: This unit offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size.

Supplemental Values: There may be some minor wildlife values for bird roosting according to the State Game Department.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although substantially natural, the unit lacks sufficient size and offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-29

Unit Name: Park Bay Island

Description

Size: About two acres of public land currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: About 50 feet from the western shore of Shaw Island at the mouth to Parks Bay.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a gently sloped, rocky island with a good vegetational covering of fir, cedar, and madrone trees with mixed grasses and brush.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island itself is completely natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Minor opportunities are available due to the vegetation and topography but are not outstanding because of the small size.

Recreation: There could be some potential opportunities for camping and sightseeing, but they are limited by the small size of the unit and are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While the unit is generally natural, it lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-30

Unit Name: North Pass and McConnell Rocks

Description

Size: North Pass is less than one-half acre in size. McConnell Rocks is about two acres in size and is leased to the State Parks.

Location: McConnell Rocks is located about 200 feet northwest of McConnell Island and is attached at low tide. North Pass Rock is located on the north tip of Reef Island. The entire unit is situated between Shaw and Orcas Islands. A couple of Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands are within one-half mile.

Physical Characteristics: North Pass Rock is a low-lying bare rock under water at high tide. McConnell Rock is a long, thin, mostly flat island with a few fir, cedar, and madrone trees, good overall grass cover, and fairly good access.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Both rocks appear generally natural with no apparent imprints of man's work.

Solitude: The unit offers no opportunities for solitude due to its very small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: McConnell Rocks offers some limited opportunities for camping or sightseeing but they are not outstanding, because of its small size. North Pass Rock offers no opportunities because of its very small size.

Supplemental Values: Some minor wildlife use occurs according to State Game Department.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: North Pass and McConnell Rocks are both natural appearing but lack sufficient size and do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-31

Unit Name: Broken Point Island

Description

Size: About one acre of public land.

Location: The unit is in a small bay immediately west of Broken Point on the north side of Shaw Island.

Physical Characteristics: The island is a small dome-shaped rock with steep banks, a few shrubby trees, and good grass cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Broken Point Island appears generally natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: The unit offers no opportunities for solitude due to its very small size, generally flat topography, and lack of good vegetational screening.

Recreation: Because of the very small size, rocky nature, and poor access, there are no real opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some wildlife value as an eagle roost according to the State Game Department.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The island appears generally natural but lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-32

Unit Name: Posey Island

Description

Size: About one acre, leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: The island is located about 100 yards north of Pearl Island and about one-half mile northwest of Roche Harbor on San Juan Island. The island lies within one-half mile of a Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flat, low-lying island with heavy brush, a few trees, and grass on the open area.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island appears generally natural except for a small cabin on the northwest side of the island which is substantially noticeable because of the island's small size.

Solitude: Posey Island offers no opportunities for solitude due to its flat topography and very small size.

Recreation: The unit offers some limited camping, day-use, and sightseeing opportunities and has some tables in place by the State Parks. However, it offers no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department states that the island has good wildlife values for seabird and harlequin duck use along with good kelp beds.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness reviews.

Rationale: Posey Island does not appear natural, lacks sufficient size, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-33

Unit Name: Mitchell's Bay Rocks and Guss Island

Description

Size: Mitchell's Bay Rocks are three rocks totalling less than two acres in size. Guss Island is also about two acres.

Location: Mitchell's Bay Rocks are located at the mouth of Mitchell Bay in the northwest area of San Juan Island. Guss Island is located in Garrison Bay just west of English Camp in the northwest section of San Juan Island.

Physical Characteristics: Mitchell's Bay Rocks are low-lying barren rockpiles. Guss Island is heavily vegetated with heavy brush and tree growth and of relatively flat topography. Guss Island is also posted as closed for public use due to "research in progress". Ownership of the island is uncertain. The National Park Service, which has posted the island, assumes that the island belongs to that agency, while the BLM also claims management responsibility.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The largest of the Mitchell Bay Rocks has a large sign on it to aid navigation in the bay. The remainder of the rocks and Guss Island appear generally natural.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on Mitchell Bay Rocks due to their extremely small size and lack of vegetation. Limited opportunities exist on Guss Island but are not very good because of its small size.

Recreation: Mitchell Bay Rocks offer no opportunities because of their extremely small size. Guss Island has very limited potential because of its small size, dense vegetation, and posted notices to keep off, apparently posted by the National Park Service.

Supplemental Values: The unit has wildlife values for use as seabird roosting.

Rationale: Both the island and the rocks are generally natural but lack sufficient size or outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-34

Unit Name: Pudding Island

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: About 30 feet north of Satellite Island, which is just north of Stuart Island.

Physical Characteristics: Pudding Island is a steep banked, rounded rock with a little grass and two small shrubs on top. The unit has very difficult access and is connected to the larger Satellite Island at medium tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island has no imprints of man's work and appears generally natural.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude in the unit due to its extremely small size and lack of much vegetation.

Recreation: Pudding Island offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its very small size, rocky nature, and difficulty of access.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is completely natural but lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-35

Unit Name: John's Pass Rocks, Rock Island

Description

Size: Both the rock and the island are less than one acre in size.

Location: John's Pass Rocks are within 100 feet of Stuart Island in the channel between John's Island and Stuart. Rock Island is immediately to the north in a small bay about 200 feet off the north slope of Stuart Island.

Physical Characteristics: Both sets of rocks are bare, low-lying, with no vegetation and difficult access. The absence of vegetation indicates that they are probably under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with the only imprints being some pilings on the southern rock which is very noticeable because of the small size of the rock.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the very small size and lack of any vegetation in the unit.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the very small size of the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit would appear to have some wildlife values as a seabird roosting area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While John's Pass Rock and Rock Island appear generally natural, they offer no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-36

Unit Name: Prevost Harbor Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of three sets of rocks less than two acres total in size.

Location: The rocks lie in the east side of Prevost Harbor between Satellite and Stuart Islands.

Physical Characteristics: The three sets of rocks are all low, flat, unvegetated rocks with difficult access. Lack of vegetation indicates that they are probably under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears completely natural with no apparent imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Prevost Harbor Rocks offer no opportunities for solitude due to their extremely small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: The rocks offer no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of their extremely small size and lack of good access.

Supplemental Values: There are some wildlife values on the unit as it appears to receive heavy seabird roosting.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The rocks appear generally natural but do not offer any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-37

Unit Name: Reid Harbor Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: About 75 feet off the east shore of Stuart Island in the southeast section of Reid Harbor.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a small, rounded, unvegetated rock connected to shore at low tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man on the rock and it appears generally natural.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude exist on the rock due to its extremely small size, lack of vegetation, and generally flat shape.

Recreation: Reid Harbor Rock offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears natural, it lacks solitude and offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-38

Unit Name: John's Island Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: About 100 feet off the southeastern tip of John's Island. Two Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands lie within one-half mile.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a very steep banked rock with no vegetation, poor access, and measures approximately 5 by 15 feet on top.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man's work on the rock and it appears completely natural.

Solitude: The unit offers no opportunities for solitude due to its small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: The rock offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: John's Island Rock appears natural but offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-39

Unit Name: Reservation Bay Rocks

Description

Size: Two groups of rocks less than one acre total.

Location: The rocks are within 100 yards of Fidalgo Island and Deception Pass State Park in the northwest corner of Reservation Bay.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is made up of two rounded, tall, unvegetated rockpiles with difficult access. Most of the unit is under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears completely natural with no imprints of man's work noticeable.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on the rocks due to their extremely small size and complete lack of vegetation.

Recreation: Reservation Bay Rocks have no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of their extremely small size and difficulty of access.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears natural with no imprints of man but lacks sufficient size as well as opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-40

Unit Name: Deadman and Little Deadman Islands

Description

Size: Deadman is less than five acres of public land; Little Deadman is about one acre in size.

Location: About one-quarter mile west of Fidalgo Island; two miles west of LaConner in Skagit Bay.

Physical Characteristics: Little Deadman is a small, rocky, steep-banked island with fairly heavy grass and shrub cover, including a few shrubby trees. Deadman Island is a rough tear-drop shape with heavy vegetational growth, including several large trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: A small cabin exists on the north shore of Deadman Island, but is not substantially noticeable because of heavy vegetation. The remainder of the island and Little Deadman appear natural.

Solitude: No opportunities exist on Little Deadman due to its very small size and lack of vegetational screening. Deadman Island has good vegetational screening and some very minor topographic relief but offers only limited opportunities due to the small size.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for camping or sightseeing but they are not outstanding because of the unit's small size and location.

Supplemental Values: Deadman and Little Deadman Islands would appear to have some good wildlife potential but none was apparent. No other values are known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The islands appear generally natural but lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-41

Unit Name: Narrow Rocks

Description

Size: Each of the rocks in the unit is about one acre each.

Location: The northern rock is within 200 feet and the southern within 500 feet of the south tip of Fidalgo Island in the Skagit Delta just west of LaConner. The unit lies about one mile south of Deadman and Little Deadman Islands.

Physical Characteristics: Both of the Narrow Rocks are fairly tall, dome-shaped rocks with the northern rock having a sloping top and mostly grass cover with a couple of shrubs. The southern rock has very steep banks all around it with a flat-top and a few more shrubs. Access would be very difficult.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Both rocks appear generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude in the unit due to the very small size, flat shape, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: The unit offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of their very small size and lack of access.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Narrow Rocks appear natural with no imprints of man but do not offer any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-44

Unit Name: Rockport Island

Description

Size: Approximately 20 acres.

Location: On the north side of the Skagit River at the confluence with the Sauk River, about one-half mile west from the town of Rockport.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flat, elongated island with steep banks and poor access on the south shore and shallow gravel bars on the north. Vegetation consists of very dense elder, willow, and cottonwood, being nearly impenetrable in places.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Rockport Island appears completely natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Although the unit has excellent vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude are limited by the narrowness and small size of the island and are not outstanding.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the small size, the dense vegetation, location, and poor access to the island. With a State Park within one-half mile to the northwest, and a County Park one-half mile to the east, the unit provides no additional opportunities and shows no evidence of use.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department reports that Rockport Island provides important winter eagle feeding and roosting areas, plus a fish spawning area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Rockport Island appears natural but lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-50

Unit Name: Clallam County Islands

Description

Size: Nine groups of rocks comprising about 20 acres of public land. Tatoosh, under Secretarial Order dated July 27, 1877, and Waadah Island, under Executive Orders 3949 of January 28, 1924, and 4206 of April 18, 1925, were both withdrawn for lighthouse purposes and are under jurisdiction of the Coast Guard. They, therefore, do not qualify to be included in the wilderness review process and are not considered during the intensive inventory.

Location: The rocks in the unit lie along the north shore of the Olympic Peninsula, stretching from an area four miles out of Neah Bay, westerly to the area around Cape Flattery. Almost all of the rocks are within 200 feet of shore, with a couple out to one-quarter mile from shore.

Physical Characteristics: The rocks in this unit come in an assorted jumble of sizes and shapes from flat and wide to tall and narrow rocks. Seal and Sail Rocks, two rocks near Tatoosh Island, and two rocks off Cape Flattery have some grass and moss for vegetation. The others are all bare.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The islands in the unit appear completely natural with no imprints of man's work apparent.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude exist on the rocks in the unit, due to their extremely small size and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the unit because of the extremely small size of the rocks and difficulty of access.

Supplemental Values: The Washington State Game Department has identified the Clallam County Islands as having critical values for wildlife.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While the rocks in the unit appear generally natural, they lack sufficient size and do not offer any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-59

Unit Name: Indian Island

Description

Size: Less than two acres.

Location: The unit is located in the northeast corner of Silver Lake, five miles east of the town of Castle Rock.

Physical Characteristics: Indian Island is a flat, marshy area within the lake, having three fir trees and a mixture of very heavy brush and deciduous tree species on the island. At lower water levels the main island is attached to a long narrow band of reeds and brush known locally as Reed Island.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Indian Island appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited by the very small size of the island and are not outstanding.

Recreation: The only foreseeable use of the island, because of the nature and location of the unit, would be for duck hunting. Otherwise, no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Indian Island appears natural but lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-60

Unit Name: Prindle Island

Description

Size: 185 acres of public land administered under a cooperative agreement with the Washington State Game Department.

Location: About 30 miles east of Portland in the Columbia River, immediately to the north of Multnomah Falls State Park.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a long, narrow, flat island with a heavy growth of cottonwood trees and stinging nettles making up the majority of the vegetation. The entire shoreline is very steep and has few good areas for access. The upstream tip of the island also shows some evidence of bad erosion.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Prindle Island appears generally natural with no substantial imprints of man. There are numerous significant outside intrusions, including heavy barge traffic on the river adjacent to the island, Interstate 80, and Multnomah Falls State Park on the south shore of the river, and State Route 14 and Burlington Northern Railroad on the north shore.

Solitude: Opportunities in the unit are good but far from outstanding. There is good vegetational screening over most of the island, but its long, flat, narrow shape destroys any feeling of isolation from others.

Recreation: Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are very limited on the island due to the poor access, density of stinging nettles on the unit, and the location. Opportunities would include sightseeing for the scenic and wildlife values of the unit and sturgeon fishing in the river. No evidence of past use is apparent. Two State Parks are close by and receive heavy use.

Supplemental Values: The island has good wildlife values as a nesting area for Canadian geese and probable eagle use sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Prindle Island is of sufficient size and appears generally natural but lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-62

Unit Name: Lawrence Lake Island

Introduction: In the report of the Final Decisions on the Initial Inventory (August 1979) this unit was mistakenly listed as eliminated from further wilderness review. It has been intensively inventoried.

Description

Size: About one acre.

Location: The island is located in the southeast corner of Lawrence Lake, about 20 miles southeast of Olympia.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a very small, flat, marshy island with very heavy vegetational cover. Access is fairly good, as well as having a good location in the least developed portion of the lake.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Lawrence Lake Island does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its extremely small size.

Recreation: The unit offers no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size and marshy state. Heavy fishing use does occur nearby off the shore of the lake and from a State-owned boat launching area about one-quarter mile to the west, but no activity seems to occur around the island itself.

Supplemental Values: The Washington State Game Department states that the island serves as an eagle roost and is a valuable wildlife habitat area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although appearing generally natural, Lawrence Lake Island does not have sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-63

Unit Name: Eagle Island

Description

Size: Ten acres of public land currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: About one-quarter mile north of private lands on Anderson Island and three-quarters mile south of McNeil Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flat, oval-shaped island with heavy tree and shrub vegetation. A very steep shoreline limits the access somewhat, with dense vegetation limiting usage to a very small area on the south tip of the island.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Eagle Island as a whole appears generally natural with the only imprints of man's work being a Coast Guard navigational marker on the north end of the island and some man-made openings on the south end for camp sites. The imprints are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are good because of the heavy vegetational screening but they are not outstanding, due to its relatively small size.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the small size, location, and dense vegetation limiting the useable area to a small area on the southern tip of the island. There are some opportunities for swimming, two or three person camping, and day use activities, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The Washington State Game Department states that the island is a valuable wildlife habitat area providing eagle roost for nearby nests.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Eagle Island appears generally natural but lacks sufficient size and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 13-67

Unit Name: Columbia River Islands

Description

Size: Four islands totalling approximately 270 acres. Eleven islands were removed from consideration due to their being withdrawn for the McNary Dam project under Public Land Order 606 of April 24, 1943.

Location: The islands are located in the Columbia River adjacent to the Hanford Atomic Works, ranging from 20 to 30 miles north of Richland.

Physical Characteristics: All four of the islands are long, narrow bodies of very low topography with mostly grass for vegetation. The two northernmost islands have some sparse rabbitbrush, also.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no significant imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on any of the islands due to their narrowness, size, flat topography, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: The islands offer some opportunities for water-based recreation activities. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited because of the islands' size, lack of much vegetation, and location, and cannot be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department has stated that the unit is extremely valuable for wildlife habitat.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The Columbia River Islands appear generally natural but lack sufficient size and do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS

Reason for Wilderness Review

When Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976, it required the Secretary of the Interior to review roadless areas and islands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and to identify those which have wilderness characteristics. The Secretary is to report to the President his recommendations regarding the suitability of the areas and islands for preservation as wilderness. The President, in turn, is to submit his recommendations to Congress.

ONLY CONGRESS CAN ESTABLISH A WILDERNESS AREA.

The Three Phases of the Review Process

The wilderness review process has three phases: inventory, study and submission of a report to Congress.

1. Inventory. First, the public lands will be inventoried to identify areas that meet Congress' definition of wilderness. Such areas will be designated wilderness study areas (WSAs).

WE ARE NOW MIDWAY THROUGH THIS PHASE. IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1980.

BLM published a wilderness inventory handbook in September 1978. It contains policies, procedures, and guidelines on how the inventory will be carried out. The handbook may be obtained from any BLM office.

The inventory phase includes two steps.

a. Initial Inventory. The purpose of this step was to identify lands which clearly do not have wilderness characteristics and to eliminate them from further wilderness review.

The State Director's proposed decision on the initial inventory in Oregon and Washington was announced in April, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed.

The final decision on the initial inventory was announced in August, 1979. Approximately 5.7 million acres in Oregon and over 296,000 acres in Washington were eliminated from further wilderness review.

b. Intensive Inventory. All inventory units not eliminated from wilderness review in the initial inventory are being intensively inventoried. This includes field investigations of the areas. The purpose of this step is to determine which areas should be eliminated from further review and which should be designated as wilderness study areas.

The intensive inventory of lands in Oregon and Washington is being carried out in two stages. The first stage dealt with 30 inventory units in southeast Oregon. Proposed decisions on which of those units should be identified as wilderness study areas were announced in October 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed.

The second stage includes all of the other units in Oregon and Washington which were designated for intensive inventory in the August 1979 report. Proposed decisions on these units are described in this report. Public comments on the proposed decisions will be accepted through June 25, 1980. Final decisions will be announced in September 1980.

THIS REPORT ANNOUNCES THE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE INTENSIVE INVENTORY OF THE 30 SELECTED INVENTORY UNITS IN SOUTHEAST OREGON AND THE PROPOSED DECISIONS ON ALL OF THE OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

2. Study. The BLM land-use planning system will be used to analyze all values, resources, and uses within the wilderness study areas. The benefits of designating the areas as wilderness will be compared with the benefits of using the land for other purposes. The public will be asked to participate in the studies. The results of the studies will determine whether the areas are recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness.

3. Reporting. When a study is completed, recommendations as to whether the wilderness study areas are suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness will be submitted to Congress.

Wilderness Characteristics

Congress directed BLM to use the wilderness definition found in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act to determine which roadless areas and islands have wilderness characteristics. On the basis of that definition, an area or island must have the following characteristics to qualify as a wilderness study area:

1. Be a roadless area with 5,000 or more acres of contiguous public land or be of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation, use, and management as wilderness in an unimpaired condition, or be a public land island.

2. Be an area where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

3. Offer either:

   a. An outstanding opportunity for solitude, or
   b. An outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A wilderness area may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values enhance the wilderness potential of an area, but they are not necessary features of a wilderness study area.

Roadless Areas

For purposes of BLM's wilderness review, the definition of "roadless" is taken directly from the legislative history of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (House Report 94-1163, May 15, 1976, page 17):

> The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

Words and phrases in the definition are further defined in BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook:

> "Improved and maintained"-- Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
>
> "Mechanical means"-- Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
>
> "Relatively regular and continuous use"-- Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintain recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

APPENDIX B

DEFINITIONS

The following terms are used frequently in the wilderness review in Oregon and Washington. The Wilderness Inventory Handbook also contains a glossary of terms used in the wilderness review.

Contiguous Lands: Legal subdivisions of land having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review.

Inholdings: All non-Federal lands, including State, county, or private land located within the inventory units. These lands are not calculated in the acreage being evaluated for wilderness nor are they being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

Inventory Unit: Areas of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. THE UNITS MAY OR MAY NOT BE ROADLESS. An official file for each unit is maintained in the BLM district offices and is available for public review. A duplicate of the inventory case file narrative also is available for public review in the State Office in Portland.

O&C Lands: Public lands in western Oregon administered by BLM. They were granted to the Oregon and California Railroad but reverted to the Federal Government when the railroad defaulted on terms of the grant. Most of the lands are forested, and those capable of being managed for commercial timber production on a sustained yield basis are exempted by law from the wilderness review.

Public Lands: As used in the BLM wilderness review, the term refers to any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

--lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf
--lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
--lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private

Only public land is being inventoried for wilderness purposes.

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers for wilderness values.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless Area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, or other land ownership.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Opportunities for solitude are evaluated by examining factors which enable a visitor in an area to avoid the sights and sounds of other users in the area. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are an area's size, shape, vegetative screening, and topographic relief. Opportunities for solitude are not evaluated on the basis of an area's remoteness from human habitation.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section (c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Characteristics of wilderness described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Lands meeting the criteria will be identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Lands not meeting wilderness criteria will be released from further wilderness review.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover all phases of the wilderness program of the BLM; they are (a) inventory, (b) study, and (c) reporting.

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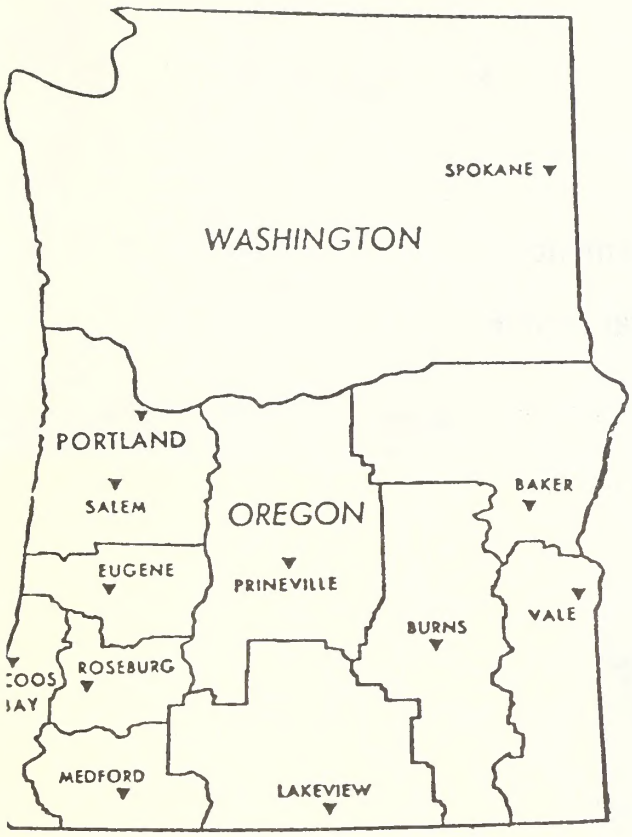
APPENDIX C

BLM OFFICES IN OREGON & WASHINGTON



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Gordon Staker, District Manager
P.O. Box 987
Baker, OR 97814

BURNS DISTRICT - 573-2071
L. Christian Vosler, District Manager
74 South Alvord Street
Burns, OR 97720

COOS BAY DISTRICT - 269-5880
Paul Sanger, District Manager
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Coos Bay, OR 97420

EUGENE DISTRICT - 687-6650
Dwight Patton, District Manager
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LAKEVIEW DISTRICT - 947-2177
Richard Gerity, District Manager
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Lakeview, OR 97630

MEDFORD DISTRICT - 776-4174
George Francis, District Manager
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PRINEVILLE DISTRICT - 447-4115
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ROSEBURG DISTRICT - 672-4491
James Hart, District Manager
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Roseburg, OR 97470

SALEM DISTRICT - 399-5646
Edward Stauber, District Manager
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Salem, OR 97302

TILLAMOOK RESOURCE AREA - 842-7546
Everett Meier, Area Manager
6615 Officer's Row
Tillamook, OR 97141

SPOKANE DISTRICT - 509-456-2570
Roger Burwell, District Manager
Room 551, U.S. Courthouse
West 920 Riverside
Spokane, WA 99201

VALE DISTRICT - 473-3144
Fearl Parker, District Manager
365 "A" Street West
P.O. Box 700
Vale, OR 97918

OREGON STATE OFFICE - 231-6273
729 NE Oregon Street
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

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13-10 AREA
FURTHER

13-10 ISLAND PROPO
FURTHER WILDER

UNITS 6-38 & 6-39;
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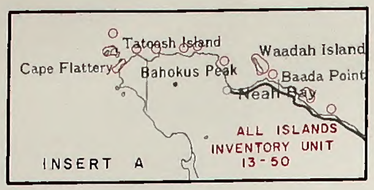

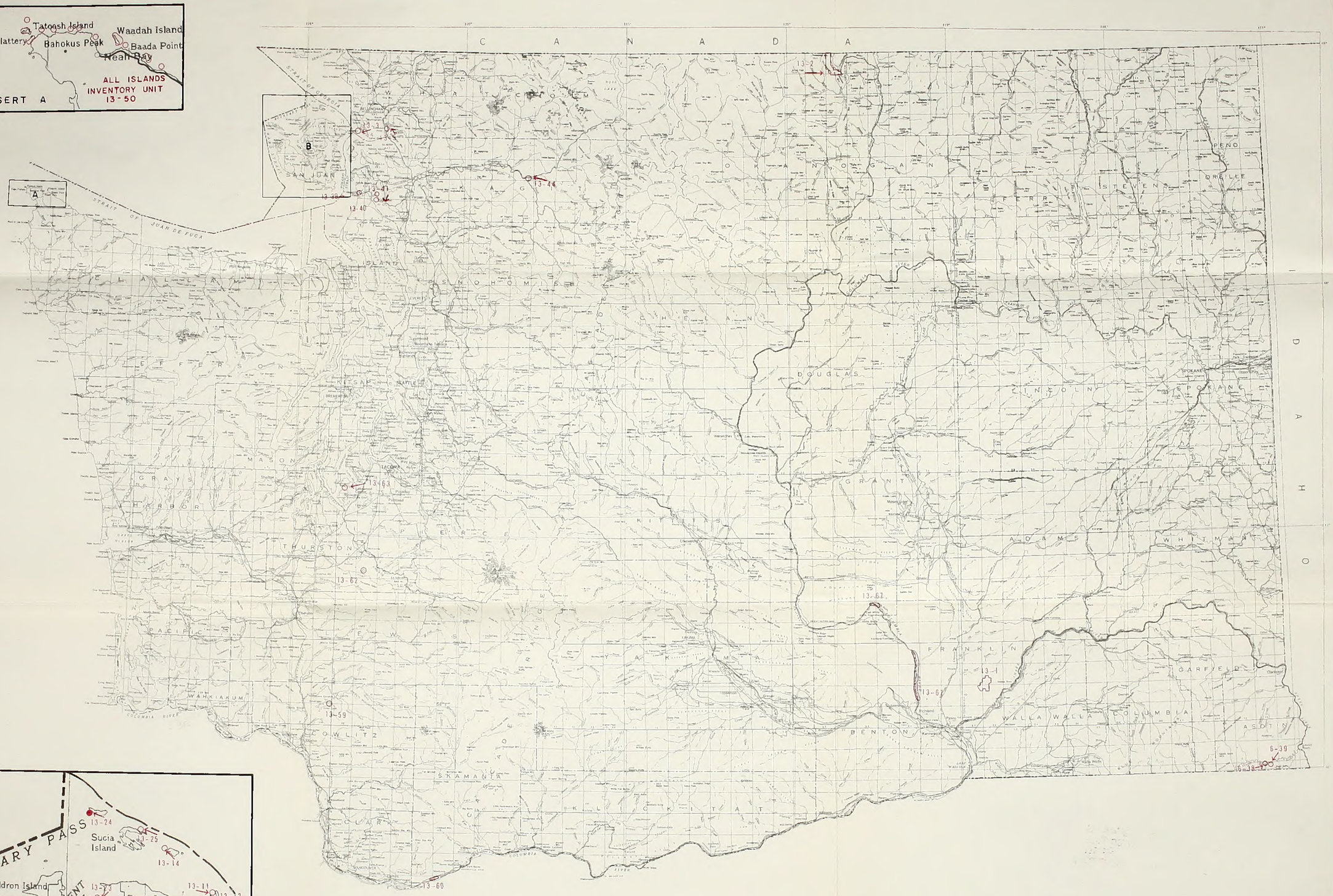

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PROPOSED DECISIONS FOR INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS

MARCH 1980

Scale 1:1 000 000
1 inch equals approximately 16 miles

LEGEND

- ● 13-10 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS STUDY
- 13-10 AREA PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW
- ○ 13-10 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

UNITS 6-38 & 6-39, MANAGED BY BAKER OREGON DISTRICT OFFICE

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LEGEND

- BLM DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 1-10 BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT
- ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT
- ID-02-001 NUMBER OF ADJOINING BLM WILDERNESS UNIT IN ADJACENT STATES
- Existing BLM Wilderness Study Area

PROPOSED DECISIONS

- 2-2 PROPOSED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- 9-1 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS STUDY
- AREA PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW
- 9-1 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

FINAL DECISIONS

- DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- AREA ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES*

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

- Existing wilderness
- RARE II area recommended by the President on April 16, 1979, for wilderness or for further planning; or area designated by Congress for wilderness study.

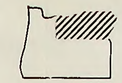
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Existing wilderness island
- Proposed wilderness area

*Existing and potential wilderness areas administered by other agencies are shown only to provide a statewide overview. The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory relates only to BLM administered land.

NOTE

Private and state lands located within the boundaries of wilderness inventory units are not included in the wilderness inventory.



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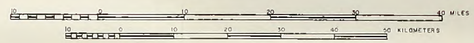

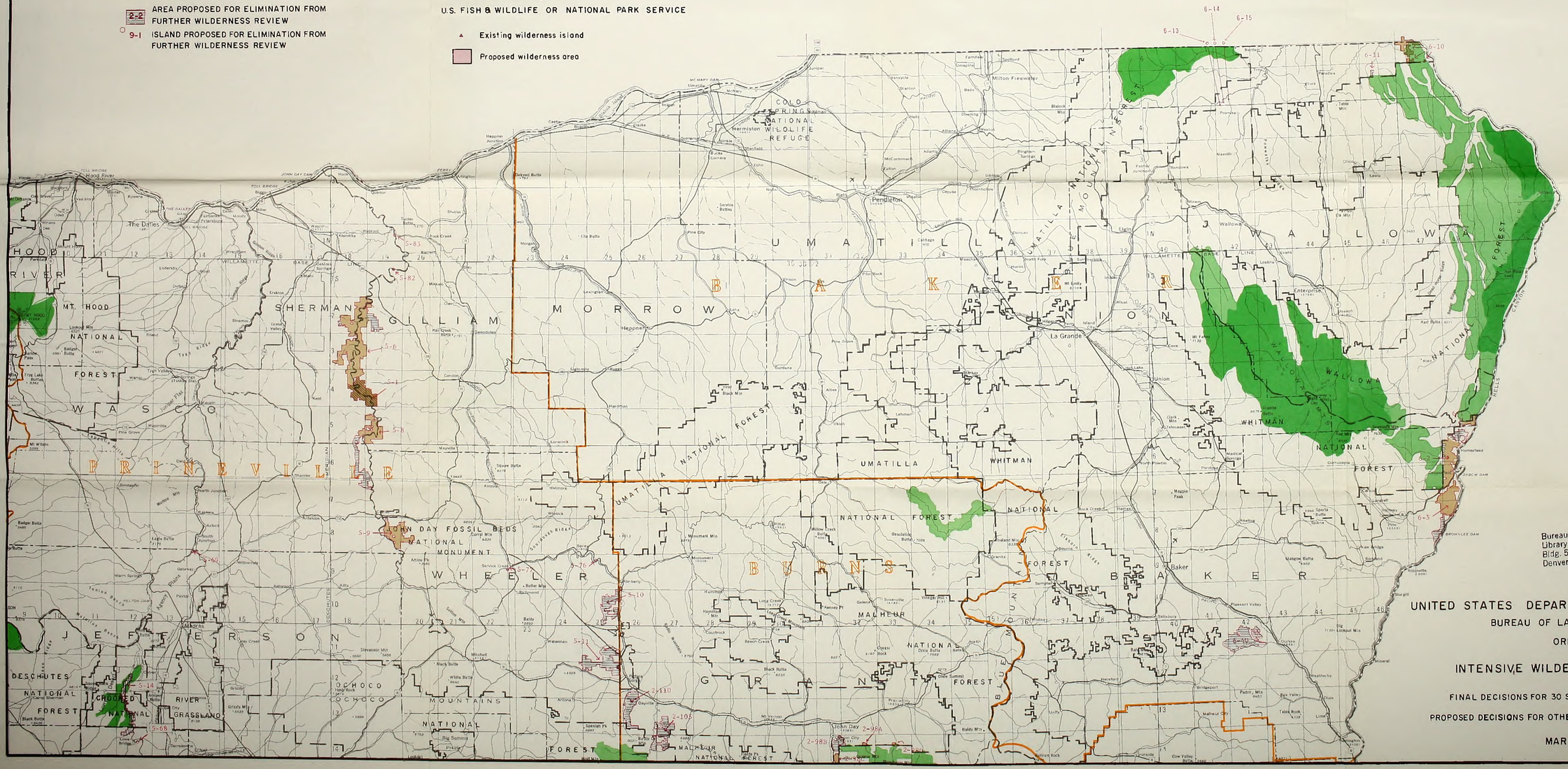

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON

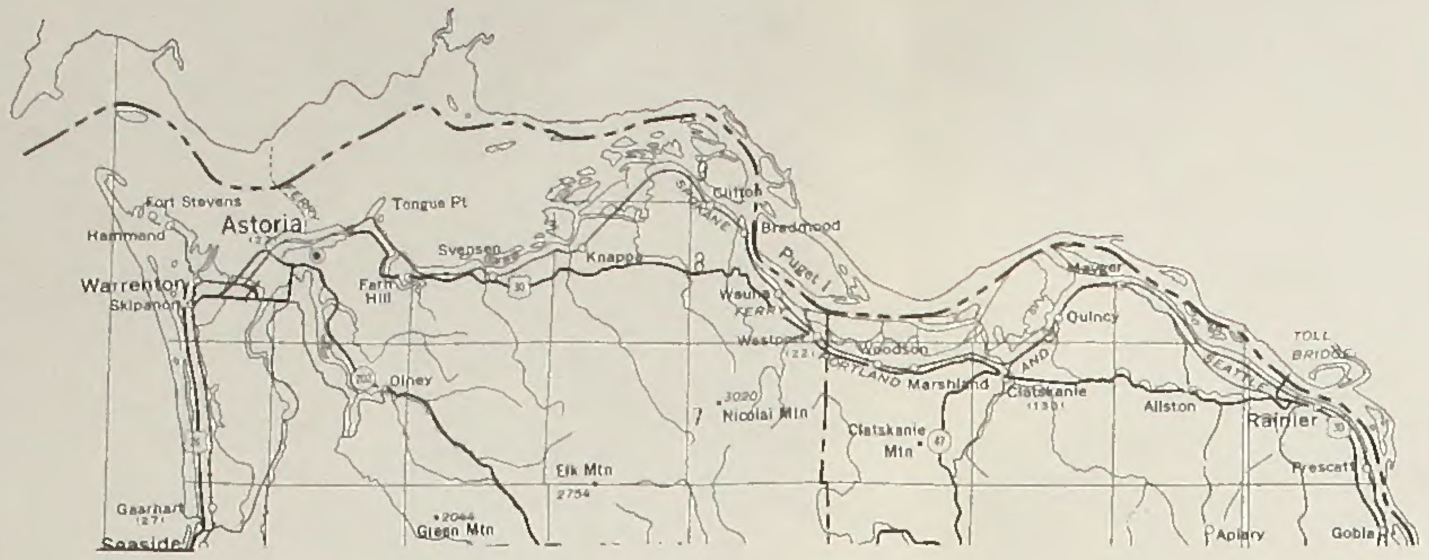
INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISIONS FOR 30 SELECTED INVENTORY UNITS

PROPOSED DECISIONS FOR OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS

MARCH 1980

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980—697-369



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISIONS FOR 30 SELECTED INVENTORY UNITS

PROPOSED DECISIONS FOR OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS

MARCH 1980

LEGEND

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ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT

ID-02-001 NUMBER OF ADJOINING BLM WILDERNESS UNIT IN ADJACENT STATES

PROPOSED DECISIONS

2-2 PROPOSED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

9-1 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS STUDY

2-2 AREA PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

9-1 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

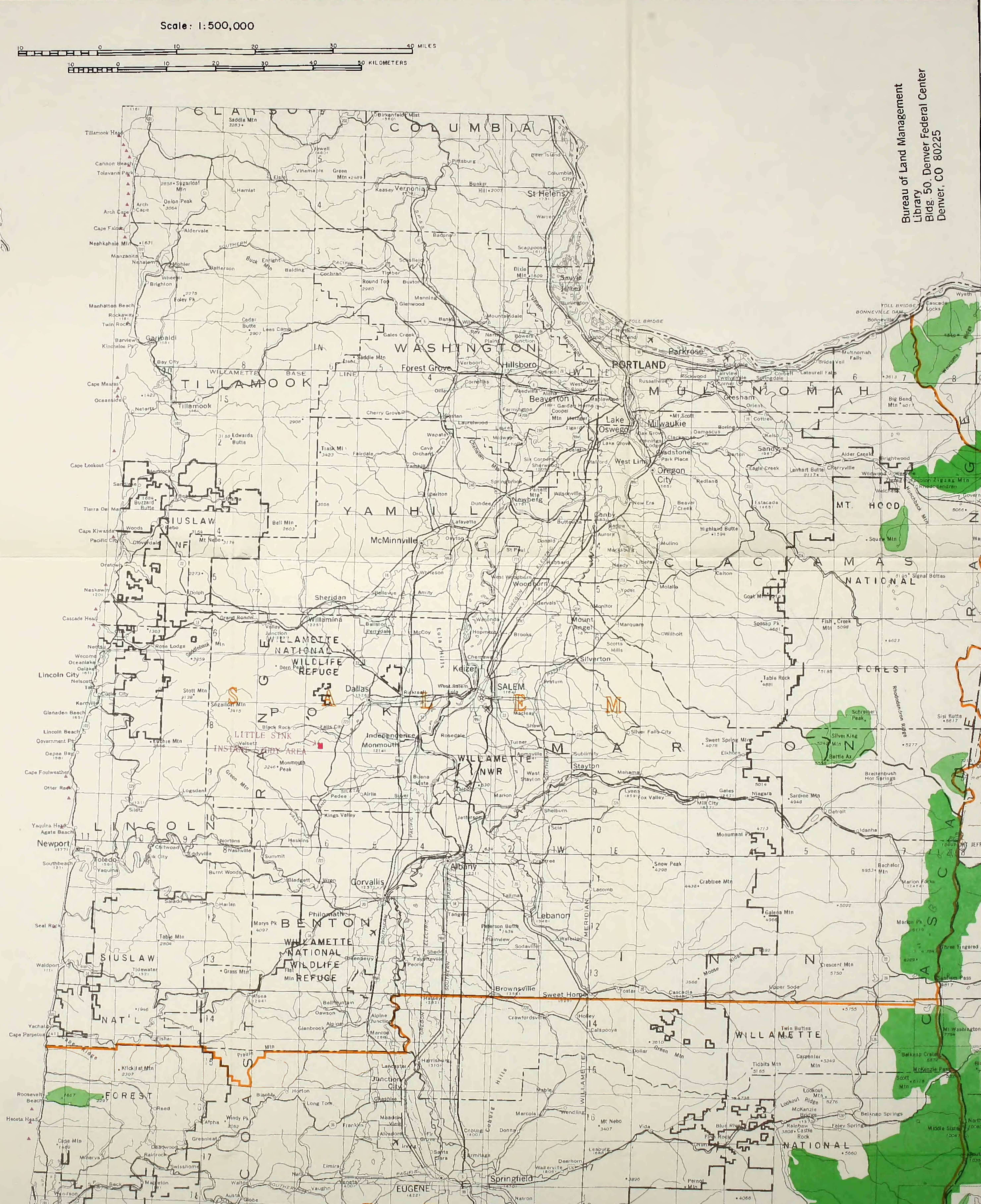
FINAL DECISIONS

DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES*

U.S. FOREST SERVICE



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EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES*

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Existing wilderness

Rare II area recommended by the President on April 16, 1979, for wilderness or for further planning; or area designated by Congress for wilderness study

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Existing wilderness island

Proposed wilderness area

*Existing and potential wilderness areas administered by other agencies are shown only to provide a statewide overview. The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory relates only to BLM administered land.

NOTE

Private and state lands located within the boundaries of wilderness inventory units are not included in the wilderness inventory.

EUGENE

Springfield

Cottage Grove

Oakridge

Florence

Reedsport

Winchester Bay

North Bend

Coos Bay

Bandon

Coquille

Myrtle Point

Roseburg

Winston

Myrtle Creek

Riddle

Canyonville

Tri City

Days Creek

Sutherlin

Oakland

Drain

Elkton

Scottsburg

Lakeside

Gold Beach

Port Orford

Brookings

Grants Pass

Medford

Central Point

Jacksonville

Ashland

White City

Eagle Point

Talent

Phoenix

Rogue River

Gold Hill

Wilderville

Merlin

Sunny Valley

Grave Creek

Glendale

Azalea

Fortuna Branch

Cedar Springs Mtn

Union Creek

Whetstone Pt

Prospect

Burnt Peak

Cascade Gorge

Olson Mtn

McLeod

Shady Cove

Butte Falls

Lakecreek

Brownsboro

Mt McLoughlin

Rocky Point

Modoc Point

Swan

Algoma

Shady Pine

Pelican City

Klamath Agency

Crater Lake

Union Peak

Mt Scott

Roosevelt Ridge

Diamond Peak

Crescent Lake

Willamette Pass

Cascade Summit

Odell Butte

Cowhorn Mtn

Windigo Pass

Mowich

Elephant Mtn

Tokatee Falls

Clearwater

Diamond Lake

Mt Bailey

Mt Thielsen

Fish Mtn

Grasshopper Mtn

Quartz Mtn

Red Butte

Lane Mtn

Dillard

Olalla

Camas Valley

Remote

Kenyon Mtn

Bone Mtn

Powers

Sugarloaf Mtn

Edson Butte

Humbug Mtn

Rocky Pt

Baldy Butte

Allegany

Coaledo

Coos Mtn

Coos Ridge

High Ridge

Tyee Mtn

Scott Mtn

Idleyld Park

Steamboat

Harding Butte

Old Fairview

Fairview Pk

Black Butte

Harness Mtn

Huckleberry Mtn

Ben Mor Mtn

Rice Hill

Yellow Butte

Kellogg

Yoncalla

Elkhead

Table Mtn

London Springs

Holland Pl

Slapjack Butte

Juniper Ridge

Diamond Peak

Emigrant Pass

Harding Ridge

Cowhorn Mtn

Mowich

Cappy Mtn

Bare Butte

Paunina

Chemult

Beaver Marsh

Timber Crater

Desert Cone

Mt Scott

Lenz

Chiloquin

Sun Pass

Kirk

Fort Klamath

Devils Pk

Rustler Peak

Pelican Butte

Rocky Point

Modoc Point

Algoma

Shady Pine

Pelican City

Klamath Agency

Aspen Butte

Surveyor Mtn

Grizzly Pk

Brown Mtn

Table Rock

Lone Pine

Lincoln

Pinehurst

Parker Mtn

Hamaker Mtn

Worden

Midland

Stukel

Soda Mtn

Siskiyou Pass

Grizzly Butte Mtn

Mt Ashland

Colestin

Lake Peak

Buckhorn Mtn

Grayback Mtn

Oregon Caves

Bolan Mtn

Bald Knob

Marial

Eden Ridge

Illahe

Agness

Gardiner

Sixes

Langlois

Denmark

Blacklock Pt

Cape Blanco

The Heads

Cape Sebastian

Pistol River

Crook Pt

Carpenterville

Bosley Butte

Cape Ferrelo

Mt Emily

Harris Beach

Winchuck

Chetco Pk

Canyon Pk

Kerby

Cave Junction

Holland

Bridgeview

Waldo

Takilma

Wonder

Squaw Mtn

Selma

Dryden

Roundtop Mtn

Mt Isabelle

Provolt

Applegate

Ruch

Mungers Butte

Anderson Butte

Tallowbox Mtn

Littles Grayback

Butchmans Pk

Kalmiopsis

Chetco

Illinois

Rogue

Siskiyou

Umpqua

Willamette

Deschutes

Winema

Fremont

Klamath

Coast Range

Cascade Range

Calapooya Mountains

Coast Meridian

Willamette Meridian

Pacific

Southern Pacific

Union Pacific

Coos Bay Wagon Road

Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands

Douglas County

Coos County

Curry County

Josephine County

Jackson County

Lane County

Douglas County

Deschutes County

Klamath County

Crater Lake National Park

Rogue River National Forest

Siskiyou National Forest

Umpqua National Forest

Willamette National Forest

Winema National Forest

Fremont National Forest

Klamath Forest NWR

Upper Klamath Wildlife Refuge

FISH ROCK 12-15

NORTH SISTERS ROCKS 12-8

MYERS CREEK PISTOL RIVER 12-10A

LONE RANCH ROCKS 12-12A

HARRIS ISLAND 12-13A

ZWAGG ISLAND 12-14A

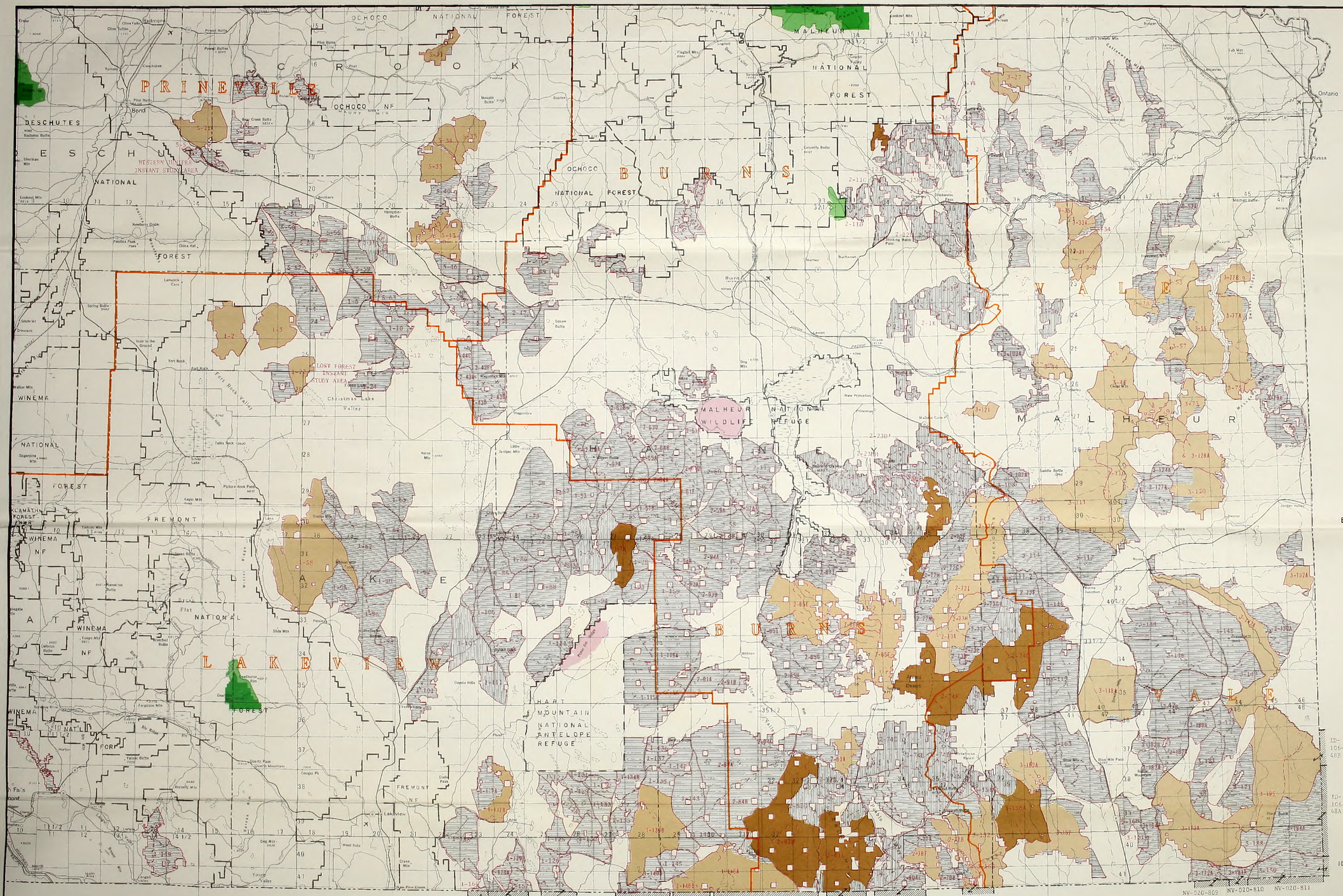
TABLE ROCK 12-14A

DOUGLAS-OR INSTANT STUDY AREA

BREWER SPRUCE INSTANT STUDY AREA

11-1

11-17



LEGEND

- BLM DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 1-10 BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT
- ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT
- ID-02-001 NUMBER OF ADJOINING BLM WILDERNESS UNIT IN ADJACENT STATES

PROPOSED DECISIONS

- 2-2 PROPOSED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- 9-1 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS STUDY
- 2-2 AREA PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW
- 9-1 ISLAND PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

FINAL DECISIONS

- DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- AREA ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES*

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

- Existing wilderness
- Roreli area recommended by the President on April 16, 1979, for wilderness or far further planning; ar area designated by Congress far wilderness study

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Existing wilderness island
- Proposed wilderness area

*Existing and potential wilderness areas administered by other agencies are shown only to provide a statewide overview. The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory relates only to BLM administered land.

NOTE Private and state lands located within the boundaries of wilderness inventory units are not included in the wilderness inventory.

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Administratively Endorsed Wilderness Proposals
Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON
INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISIONS FOR 30 SELECTED INVENTORY UNITS

PROPOSED DECISIONS FOR OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS

MARCH 1980

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Scale: 1:500,000

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980—697-385